

LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS  VOLUME 10 NO. 1  SPRING 2001

A Rare Opportunity THE DUNLAP CACTI COLLECTION COMES TO LOTUSLAND

By STEVEN TIMBROOK

THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS I hope visitors will gain from their time at Lotusland are an appreciation of the importance of plants in our daily lives and an understanding of the need for worldwide habitat conservation to ensure their survival.

In the midst of Lotusland's stunning specimens of plants from around the globe, grown to magnificence over the decades and massed in spectacular plantings, it is easy to feel awed by their beauty and inspired by the garden's designers. An awareness that plants are fundamental to sustaining life on earth and are threatened with extinction as expanding human populations encroach on natural habitats is a more subtle, however crucial, part of Lotusland's message.

The best tools Lotusland docents have to bring home this essential conservation message are the specimens in our living collection that are rare, unusual, threatened, and even extinct in the wild. In these times of international treaties to control commercial trade in endangered species of plants and animals, it is increasingly difficult to add new specimens of these "poster plants" to a collection or to replace examples that are nearing the end of their lifespans. Treaties require strong scientific and educational reasons to justify collecting from the wild, even when accomplished through the use of cuttings and seeds

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MIKE IVEN

Soon, Lotusland will have a new garden devoted to rare cacti—initiated with a core collection of documented specimens of wild origin gathered in an environmentally conscious fashion.

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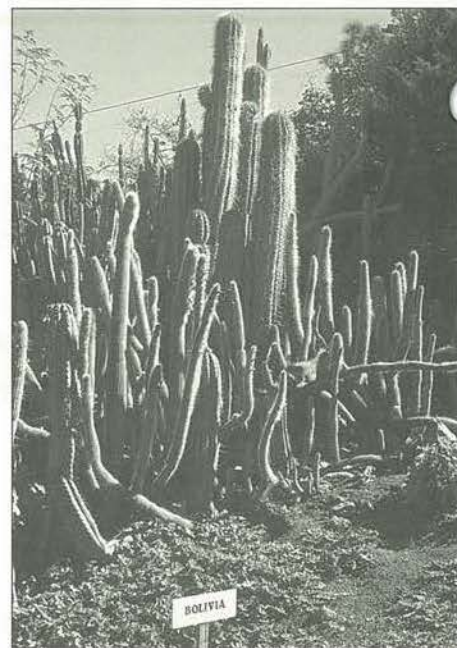
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that leave the parent plants in habitat. Imagine the potential for conservation education that could be realized by a new garden at Lotusland devoted to rare cacti and initiated with a core collection of documented specimens of wild origin gathered in an environmentally conscious fashion over a 70-year period.

Merritt S. "Sigs" Dunlap, of Fallbrook in San Diego County, has such a collection—a result of a life-long passion for cacti that began with his first acquisition in 1929. In 1966, after visiting Lotusland on tours with the Cactus and Succulent Society, Sigs offered to leave his collection to Lotusland. Madame Walska wrote in reply, "...how strange that both of us were preoccupied about the future of our beloved plants."

In the Spring 1995 newsletter, I wrote about the Dunlap collection and our hope to have many years yet to prepare for the enormous task of moving it from Fallbrook to Lotusland. Some six years later, Sigs (now 94 years of age) has decided to change his bequest to a donation and has



MIKE IVEN

Transferring the Dunlap collection will be a challenging project indeed. Hundreds of specimens, many more than 15 feet tall, fill a garden 350 feet long and 80 feet deep.

asked Lotusland to begin transferring the collection.

It will be a challenging project indeed. Hundreds of specimens, many over 15 feet tall, fill a garden 350 feet long and 80 feet deep. The plan is to accomplish the work in phases, with



LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

Ganna Walska and Merritt Dunlap in an October 1967 snapshot taken with Mme. Walska's camera during a tour and picnic she hosted for the Theodore Payne Foundation.



LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

Merritt Dunlap is flanked by Lotusland's Assistant Grounds Superintendent Esau Ramirez (left) and horticultural consultant Paul Mills (right), who are helping to facilitate the transfer of the collection to Lotusland.



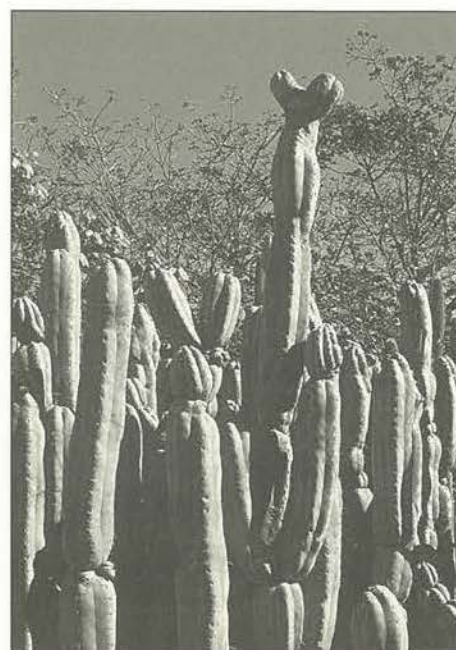
MIKE IVEN

Merrit Dunlap amidst his cacti at his home in Fallbrook, in San Diego County, with the author, Lotusland Executive Director Steven Timbrook.

the final goal of a completely new garden at Lotusland designed to display these specimens to the best advantage and provide space for new acquisitions through the years as the garden matures. Just moving the

collection to temporary holding beds at Lotusland will take several months and cost more than \$100,000. Contributions to help defray the cost of moving the collection will be greatly appreciated. Considering that the specimens themselves are of mature size, great diversity and known provenance, Mr. Dunlap's gift is truly priceless. That he is entrusting its care and perpetuation to Lotusland is extremely gratifying.

Of the approximately 800 kinds of cacti, only about 20% are currently represented in Lotusland collections. Roughly a third of the collection was grown from seeds obtained in the wild, which shows a great concern for responsible collecting at a time when many were removing mature specimens from native habitats. Even in temporary holding grounds, the collection will be an inspiration to visitors and a strong image of what is being lost every day in the natural world. That knowledge will be key to reversing the trend of species extinction and offering hope for the future of mankind and our planet.



MIKE IVEN

Specimens are of mature size, great diversity, and known provenance. Of the approximately 800 kinds of cacti, only about 20% currently are represented in Lotusland collections.

If you would like more information about making a donation that would assist in bringing the Dunlap Collection to Lotusland, please contact Steven Timbrook, Executive Director, at (805) 969-3767.

Coming Soon: Planned Giving

Under the leadership of Lotusland Founding Trustee Arthur Gaudi, who is volunteering his extensive estate planning expertise— Lotusland is in the process of setting up a planned giving program in order to offer a full range of estate planning services to Friends of Lotusland.

Materials soon will be available describing tax-advantageous ways you can provide for your heirs and also help further your favorite projects at Lotusland. Friends and supporters will be able to take advantage of confidential, charitable estate planning consultations and detailed, personalized illustrations showing the benefits of charitable trusts and other life income arrangements.

If you are interested in learning more, or if you have already included Lotusland in your plans, please contact Anne Dewey, Director of Development, at 969-3767, ext. 225.

Robert Emmons

LOTUSLAND'S NEW PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD



JANET EASTMAN

LATE LAST YEAR, Robert Emmons became Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Lotusland—succeeding Carol Valentine, who retired after a lengthy and productive tenure. As chairman, Dr. Emmons will have an important impact on the future of Lotusland. His credentials and his responses to our interview questions confirm the garden is in capable hands.

Robert Emmons is Managing Partner of Emmons Capital, an investment partnership, and previously was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Smart & Final Inc.

Currently, Dr. Emmons is Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Loyola Marymount University in L.A., a Board Member of the Lloyd Greif Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business, former Trustee of the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in San Francisco, past President and current Trustee of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, and President of the Board of Marymount Academy.

Q. How did you first become interested in Lotusland?

Well, you know we became members years ago and attended *Lotusland Celebrates* and admired the garden as a community treasure. And then I had a party at my house, and two of Lotusland's trustees said they had to see me in the library, and they took

me to the library and shut the doors, and said, "We need you, and we want you to be on the board." So now my family has gotten to know the gardens well, and we have sponsored Members' Family Day for a couple of years. I think the more you are exposed to the garden, the more you see some of the nuances of the garden, the more excited you become about it. It becomes part of your life.

Q. What experiences have prepared you for your new role as Chairman of the Board of Trustees?

I've been involved with community activities as well as industry activities related to the businesses I've worked for, and I've always felt I could do something more than just run a company or do something more than just live in a community. I have a sense that there is a real need for involvement, because there are people who don't get involved. I think it is a responsibility.

Q. What is your sense of Lotusland's mission?

As far as the mission of Lotusland is concerned, it's a unique place because it's a private garden that has a public persona. So I think that the mission of Lotusland is really to try to expand that public persona over time. I LOVE the children's program. I think it's a program where we can reach out to children who might never have the opportunity to see a garden of this variety and wonderment. My son, who is ten, went through the garden last year as part of his fourth grade group, and he and his friends still talk about the garden. Gradually over time, we will expose more people in Santa Barbara to the garden and then we'll be more generally accepted as a community treasure.

Q. Do you have a particular goal for Lotusland?

I would like to think that over time we could become more of a research

center. I could see establishing, at some time in the future, a Lotusland fellowship program. I don't think that it's something that's going to happen tomorrow, but it's something that I would like to see us focus on long-term, and that is the research aspect of Lotusland, which has been something that has not been looked at to date, and I think that it also presents a marvelous opportunity to also enhance the reputation of Lotusland.

Q. What do you think is Lotusland's most valuable asset?

Lotusland's most valuable asset is the garden itself, the plants, the living assets that we have. But I think there is something else we can do with the hardscape. I think that as some point in time we might be able to have a museum, which might deal with the life of Madame Walska, and perhaps even go beyond into the life of this property and this garden, back to the time of the Gavits family, who played such an important role in the property over time. Those are the kinds of things that I would like us to be open to.

Q. Can you tell us what kind of person you think Madame Walska was?

A very complex person, very flamboyant, certainly flawed, but one who led such a dynamic life. So you see this small woman who was very exciting, this very dynamic woman who was in complete control, and you see this very vulnerable woman who is still looking for a life, and her quest for a bigger life. She begins to think about her legacy, and what she might do. And suddenly her jewelry is not nearly as important as this magnificent tree that she has to acquire for the garden. So the jewelry is sold to fund the tree. Isn't it great? It's a marvelous story. In many respects Madame Walska created herself. She created herself, re-created herself over time. And people do that.

—Amanda Jones

The Chanticleer Fellowship

Chanticleer is a "pleasure garden" near Philadelphia, designed to illustrate the beauty of the art of horticulture. Originally a 31-acre estate, today the garden is preserved and managed by an independent non-profit foundation. Chanticleer's kinship to Lotusland is manifested in the similarity of their histories, their shared design as groups of smaller specialized garden spaces, and their strongly aesthetic focus. If you would like to know more about the garden, consult www.chanticleergarden.org.

CHANTICLEER FOUNDATION



CHANTICLEER AND LOTUSLAND have enjoyed a close relationship for many years. I have been fortunate to spend a great deal of time in the garden and have come to love it dearly. I have also been able to collaborate with the staff of the garden on my own peculiar ideas of staff training by placing two Chanticleer Fellows at Lotusland. Romi Ige spent a few months, two years ago, working on master planning, while **Jonathan Wright**, a horticulturist, is currently enjoying three months working in the garden.

Started in 1997, the Chanticleer Fellowship is a unique two-year program for an individual wishing to gain greater experience in the public garden field. It is a program for students looking for practical training rather than academic education.

Because Chanticleer is not a traditional institution, its fellowship is designed to attract creative, independent thinkers who will take advantage of the unique approach and assets that Chanticleer brings to the public garden profession. Its mission is to propel the industry and the professional into new arenas rather than supporting the status quo. Work experience is combined with financial management, communication, personal growth and self-awareness courses.

As one of the most beautiful and significant gardens in the world with an extraordinary horticulture and high professional standards, Lotusland is an ideal training ground for a Fellow. If the goal of the Fellowship is to raise the expectations of the garden professional, what better place than the extraordinarily beautiful world of Lotusland? For a plantsman such as Jonathan, the horticultural diversity of southern California will be learned by working with the plants and those who tend them. Jonathan will spend three months at Lotusland, then a period at the Denver Botanic Garden. He will spend part of the summer in England and Ireland and then the fall and winter at the

National Tropical Botanical garden in Kauai. After a year, his knowledge of plant and human diversity will be extraordinary. After two years he should be a great plantsman, a versatile and knowledgeable horticulturist and a great human being!

To me Lotusland is an emotional experience. The weave of the garden is an expression of human emotion, of joy of living expressed through plants. I hope that the Chanticleer Fellow will not only come to know that same joy but through their experience, realize that beauty, and love of beauty, is at the very core of our lives.

—Chris Woods

Executive Director, Chanticleer



MIKE IVEN

Chanticleer Fellow Jonathan Wright.

**santa barbara
zoological gardens**



Friends of Lotusland Visit the Zoo for Free in March

PRESENT YOUR FRIENDS OF LOTUSLAND Membership Card or Newsletter with your address panel, plus one other (picture) ID and be admitted free to The Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens during the month of March.

This generous invitation has been extended to other cultural institutions in Santa Barbara as well.

Call the zoo information line at 962-6310 or the business office at 962-5339 if you have questions.

Horticultural Happenings

TOPIARY GARDEN INSTALLATION COMPLETE

THERE'S STILL A LOT of work to do, but the initial installation of the renovated topiary garden is complete. Peter Schneider, who maintained Lotusland's cycad collection for ten years before accepting responsibility for the care and maintenance of the topiaries, and Lori Ann David, topiary garden designer, are consulting on a regular basis regarding the training of plant material used to recreate this fanciful garden. Sustainable horticultural practices by Lotusland staff, including mycorrhizae inoculations, compost, compost tea, and mulch applications, began before Chip Collester Landscapes completed planting of hedge material and final irrigation system checks. Many thanks to Lori Ann and the contractors involved in the installation phase of the project for their high-quality work and, especially, their extraordinary cooperation with each other and Lotusland staff.

TOPIARY GARDEN CONTRACTORS

Landscape Art Design
Lori Ann David
Chip Collester Landscapes
Chip Collester and
Chris McNeill (irrigation foreman)
Da Ros Masonry
Peter and Ozzie Da Ros
K.J. Stein Electric
Keith Stein
McClellan's Equipment
Mike McClellan
Santa Barbara Monumental Co.
Jed Hendrickson
Central Machine and Welding
Rick Fenz

MATERIALS SUPPLIERS

Norman's Nursery
Monrovia Nursery
San Marcos Growers
All Around Irrigation and Supply
Santa Barbara Stone and
Masonry Supplies
Valley Compost
Shoreline Organics

—Mike Iven



McClellan's Equipment removed old stumps and existing hedges to begin the restoration project in May 2000.



Lori Ann David and Peter Da Ros visualized the new entrance to the topiary garden from the main lawn and the location of the dedicatory plinth and sphere.



Chip Collester used the backhoe on his utility tractor to dig planting trenches for the maze. A drip system irrigates the *Buxus microphylla* 'Winter gem' used for the maze.



Temporary basins assure proper irrigation of the newly planted topiary plant material. Once established, planting bed areas will be watered with the automatic pop-up shrub spray system.



Following the installation of the automatic irrigation system, Chip Collester Landscapes installed sod and planted the 400 specimens of hedge, maze, and border material.



Lotusland staff worked with Lori Ann David to place, set, and secure topiary frames in the planting beds and then planted selected plants to be trained on the frames.

Da Ros Masonry

THE TOPIARY GARDEN restoration plan included new brick pathways to accommodate public tours and special events. Peter Da Ros worked with Lotusland staff and Lori Ann David to turn the conceptual plan to into a reality. Once the details were decided upon and Da Ros Masonry crews began work, a familiar old friend of Ganna Walska and Lotusland appeared on the scene. Ozzie Da Ros, Peter's father, took an active role in all phases of the topiary garden masonry work.

Since the 1940s, Ozzie worked on many different Lotusland projects as Madame Walska developed her garden. Most of the landscape rock in the garden, including the Japanese garden, was acquired and set in place by Ozzie. He procured the blue slag glass that lines many of Lotusland's paths. He also became an invaluable intermediary to Madame by introducing other craftsmen, artisans, and horticulturists to her to help with special projects.

Construction projects are stressful by definition and the topiary garden restoration was no exception, but Ozzie's involvement had a

comforting effect on Lotusland staff. We saw the care, the attention to detail, and his dedicated approach to the work. Peter Da Ros agreed that his Dad enjoyed being involved in



Chip Collester Landscapes, K.J. Stein Electric and Da Ros Masonry worked together on site preparation, grading and utilities service prior to the brick pathway installation. A nice herringbone pattern was chosen for the pathway circle around the horticultural clock.

another project and doing what he always did at Lotusland. As Peter said, "He was keeping an eye on things for Madame."

—Mike Iven



Da Ros Masonry refurbished the old fountain and created a new water feature with the addition of a recirculating pump.

ALL PHOTOS BY MIKE IVEN

SAVE THE DATE

Lotusfest 🌸 August 25



NAHID KHAKI

Taiko Drummers from the Oxnard Buddhist Temple enthralled spectators with their precision drum performance.

RESTING RESPLENDENT above the muddy waters from which it emerges each year, the sacred lotus has come to symbolize the regenerative power of nature and spiritual transcendence, beauty, and purity. Each summer at Lotusland, we are treated to this stunning aquatic display, which naturally invites celebration.

So...let's celebrate! Please mark your calendar to join the festivities on Saturday, August 25th. This day-long event features presentations by aquatic plant experts, including Lotusland's curator. Lunch is provided along with festive entertainment and, of course, plenty of time to enjoy the lotus blooms and the rest of the garden.

A LotusFest reservation coupon will appear in our summer newsletter.

Members' Family

SATURDAY, APRIL

This event is offered free to Lotusland members and

The Robert & Christa

Lotusland wishes to thank you, our members, for your support by hosting our

Activities



Boxtales with Michael Katz
in the theatre garden

11:00 TO 11:30 AM AND 2:30 TO 3:00 PM



Games and crafts from the garden
for children and adults

10:00 TO 11:30 AM AND 1:30 TO 3:00 PM



Horticulture Hunt—follow clues to find
plants in the garden and win a prize

MORNING AND AFTERNOON

Members' Family Day is FREE!

But you must make a reservation by mail.

Please complete and mail the coupon at right to reserve your space and to purchase lunch tickets

We expect this event to fill very quickly.

Picnic blankets will be provided to everyone.

Lunches will be provided only to those who present prepaid lunch tickets.

Tickets will be available for purchase until April 20 and will be mailed to you prior to the event.

Lunches include a deli wrap sandwich (adult or child sized), pasta salad, and fruit.

Beverages and cake are available and free to all.

Day at Lotusland

3 • 10 AM TO 4 PM

for families, thanks to the generosity and support of

Emmons Foundation

for the annual members' family day. Everyone is invited, especially kids under 10!

will include:



Free silly souvenir photographs
by Bob DeBris
ALL DAY



Live music on the main lawn,
featuring the Zydeco Zippers
NOON TO 2 PM



Picnic lunches, cake and drinks
on the main lawn
NOON TO 2 PM

RESERVATION FORM

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

Member Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

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

Bring your own picnic or order prepaid lunch tickets here.
Please specify choice of deli wrap sandwich.

Payment Method:

☐ Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Expiration date _____

Card number _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

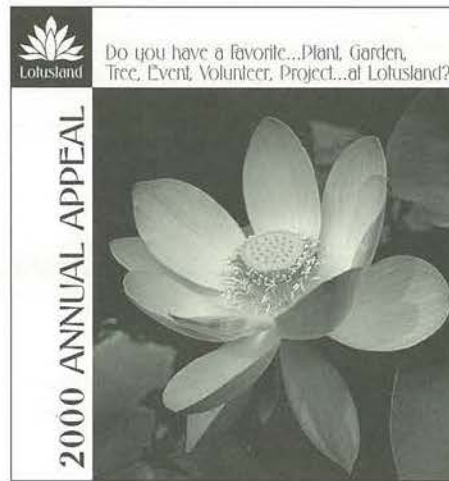
| | NUMBER | X PRICE = | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Adult's lunch: CHICKEN WRAP | _____ | \$12 | _____ |
| or VEGETABLE WRAP | _____ | \$12 | _____ |
| Child's lunch: TURKEY WRAP | _____ | \$ 8 | _____ |

It's Appealing!

THANK YOU TO ALL Lotusland members and donors who gave so generously to Lotusland's 2000 Annual Appeal. Your gifts make a difference. They enable us to maintain Madame Walska's spectacular gardens, provide tours for visitors and public school classes, offer workshops and seminars on sustainable horticultural practices, improve accessibility, and much, much more. The plants, volunteers, and staff extend their great appreciation to those who responded to this annual appeal.

UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS

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DONATIONS TO BE USED FOR SUSTAINABILITY

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Mr. Michael Sebaugh

New to the Collections

IN SPITE OF THE wide variety of shrub types that have recently been planted in the new topiary garden, all share a common ability. With the exception of just three species included for decorative reasons detailed below, the rest are woody shrubs capable of taking much shaping and pruning. Most are commonly used as hedge plants and the phrases used in garden guides to describe them tell the tale: "tolerant of clipping," "for hedging or screening," "tough," "no special regime needed to thrive," and "stands shearing well."

What is uncommon, of course, are the fanciful shapes that they will take on over the next few years as they are bent and tied, coaxed and snipped to conform to the metal frames that support them. These sturdy constructions will provide the template for many years of careful clipping, and the long-lived shrubs will soon weave a living skeleton of their own within this framework.

The frames are constructed to mimic the shapes of Madame Walska's original topiary circus, but little is known of the plants used before. Modern day choices include some improved cultivars, but most of the plants employed today are the same ones that would have been available in the 1950s and 60s. There are a few departures from the originals, though. The creative genius of Lori Ann David suggested whimsical and colorful touches that will surely delight future visitors. Three of the avian shapes have been planted with different vines designed to spread across their tails. The peacock, whose body is the small-leaved *Pittosporum tenuifolium*, will have the leathery leaves and sprays of violet flowers of *Hardenbergia violacea* 'Happy Wanderer' gracing its wide-spread tail. The turkey with its dense foliage of *Myrtus communis* (true myrtle) will be complimented by a tail covered in *Ficus repens* (creeping fig), and the parrot will be handsome indeed with a body of

Syzgium paniculatum 'Monterrey Bay' and tail of *Clematis armandii* (evergreen clematis). Nearby, the mane of a regal lion will use *Podocarpus gracilior* in contrast to his myrtle coat.

One other new feature in the lower parterre is the boxwood maze flanking either side of the new brick pathway. Don't worry about getting lost, though, as the shrubbery making up the maze will be clipped quite low. You will be able to appreciate the labyrinth in one glance, but you may find it entertaining to traverse its sinuosities just for the fun of arriving at the antique baptismal font on one side or the as-yet-to-be-named feature on the other. In addition, the renovated marble fountain now delights the ear with its drip and splash as you feast your eyes on the lush green hedges.

—Virginia Hayes



MIKE IVEN

This parrot is one of several new topiary shapes incorporating contrasting foliage. Her tail is *Clematis armandii* (evergreen clematis) and body is *Syzgium paniculatum* 'Monterrey Bay.'

HERE IS A COMPLETE LIST of the new topiary shapes and their plants for your reference as you watch them grow.

Shape

Plant material

Entrance from main lawn

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Teardrops | <i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Mint julep' |
| Spirals | <i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Spartan' |
| Globes | <i>Syzgium paniculatum</i> (syn. <i>Eugenia myrtifolia</i>) brush cherry |
| Cones, pyramids, spheres .. | <i>Syzgium paniculatum</i> 'Monterrey Bay' |

Southwest quadrant

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Hippocampus | <i>Podocarpus gracilior</i> fern pine |
| Mouse | <i>Myrsine africana</i> African boxwood |
| Gorilla | <i>Euonymus japonica</i> evergreen euonymus |
| Bull | <i>Myrsine africana</i> African boxwood |
| Bear | <i>Myrtus communis</i> true myrtle |
| Bear cub | <i>Myrtus communis</i> 'Compacta' |
| Giraffe | <i>Myrsine africana</i> African boxwood |
| Chess figures | <i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Mint Julep' |

Southeast quadrant

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Camel | <i>Podocarpus gracilior</i> fern pine |
| 3 Fish | <i>Syzgium paniculatum</i> 'Globulus'; <i>Buxus micropylla japonica</i> 'Winter Gem' boxwood; <i>Myrsine africana</i> African boxwood |
| Crocodile | <i>Juniperus chinensis</i> juniper |
| Parrot | <i>Syzgium paniculatum</i> 'Monterrey Bay' (body); <i>Clematis armandii</i> (tail) evergreen clematis |
| 3 Rabbits | <i>Syzgium paniculatum</i> 'Teenie Genie' (1); <i>Myrtus communis</i> 'Compacta' (2) |
| Swan | <i>Myrsine africana</i> African boxwood |

Northeast quadrant

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Hummingbird | <i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i> Australian tea tree |
| Brontosaurus | <i>Ligustrum japonica</i> wax-leaf privet |
| Turkey | <i>Myrtus communis</i> (body) true myrtle; <i>Ficus repens</i> (tail) creeping fig |
| Pheasant | <i>Podocarpus gracilior</i> fern pine |
| Dancing pig | <i>Ligustrum japonicum</i> wax-leaf privet |

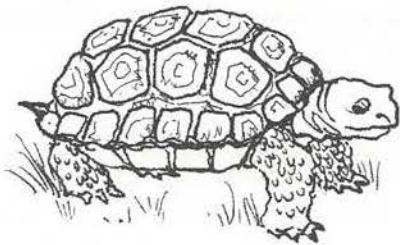
Northwest quadrant

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Horse | <i>Ligustrum japonicum</i> wax-leaf privet |
| Seal with ball | <i>Myrtus communis</i> true myrtle |
| Peacock | <i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i> (body); <i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> 'Happy Wanderer' (tail) |
| Lion | <i>Myrtus communis</i> (body) true myrtle; <i>Podocarpus gracilior</i> (mane) fern pine |
| Chess figures | <i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Mint Julep' |

From the Archives

THE ARCHIVES AT LOTUSLAND are a remarkable collection of source information about Madame Walska and every aspect of her fascinating life. From time to time, we will share an item that has caught our attention. A yellowed clipping from the *News-Press* of July 15, 1951 offers this tale of a disappearing tortoise.

—Deidre Cantrell



BILL, THE LADY TURTLE, IS STILL AMONG MISSING, by Chet Holcombe

"BILL," THE LADY TURTLE owned by Mme. Ganna Walska of Montecito, is still missing.

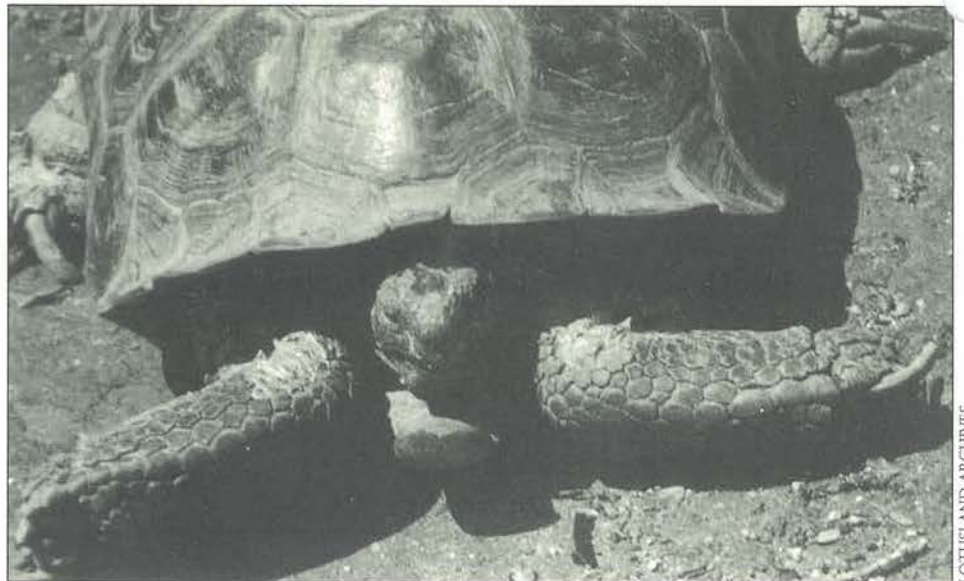
And it's through no lack of effort in looking for the hard-backed pet. Dr. Warren R. Austin has just returned from a 2,500-mile trip to the Northwest where it was earlier reported that—somehow—"Bill" had been found.

Both Mme. Walska and Austin figure that the postal card received here on June 23, reporting the incredible arrival of Bill in Tacoma, is some kind of a practical joke.

The strange tale of Bill came to light here yesterday, when Santa Barbara police received a postal card from H.F. Roufs of Dempsey Mill Road, Tacoma, which said:

Dear Sirs,

The Tacoma Chamber of Commerce tells me that you have an Ashley Road in your city. It could not be possible that a large turtle we found on the road here painted in red and white "119 Ashley Road" meandered here, could it? Or did someone pick it up and let it loose here? Perhaps there is truth to the saying "An old turtle never dies—it just wanders away"? What shall we do with the turtle—cook a soup?



After a flurry of false hope, Willie (shown here in 1957), was left to mourn Bill's disappearance.

The postal card was written in a legible hand—all except the signature and address, which were just scrawled.

Austin was planning to attend a physician's convention in Seattle a week ago when he heard about the lost turtle and the postcard from someone in Tacoma reporting that the turtle had been found there. So he volunteered to see that "Bill," missing since November, was returned home.

The only name and address in Tacoma that anywhere near resembled the scribbling on the postcard was H.F. Roufs of Dempsey Mill Road in that city. Warren found Roufs to be the keeper of the city dump, living in an old shack on the bank of a river next to all the refuse. Roufs, whom Warren described as a "colorful character," knew nothing about any turtle.

Then Warren really opened up publicity in the state of Washington. Since he took journalism in his pre-medical days at the University of Washington, he knows a number of newsmen in Seattle, Tacoma and adjoining areas. All his friends co-operated, and for days the newspapers carried pleas for anyone knowing the of the turtle's whereabouts to notify Warren.

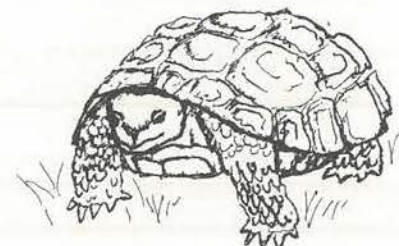
Mme. Walska and Warren were not the only disappointed ones, however. The mate of the missing

turtle, "Willie," couldn't say anything, of course, but he must be getting pretty lonesome.

Despite his comfortable location in the courtyard of "Tibetland," the luxurious estate of Mme. Walska at 119 [sic] Ashley Road, Willie must be rather disconsolate.

Willie must be wondering what kind of animals these humans be, who would play such silly tricks on one another as to write fake postcards about missing turtles.

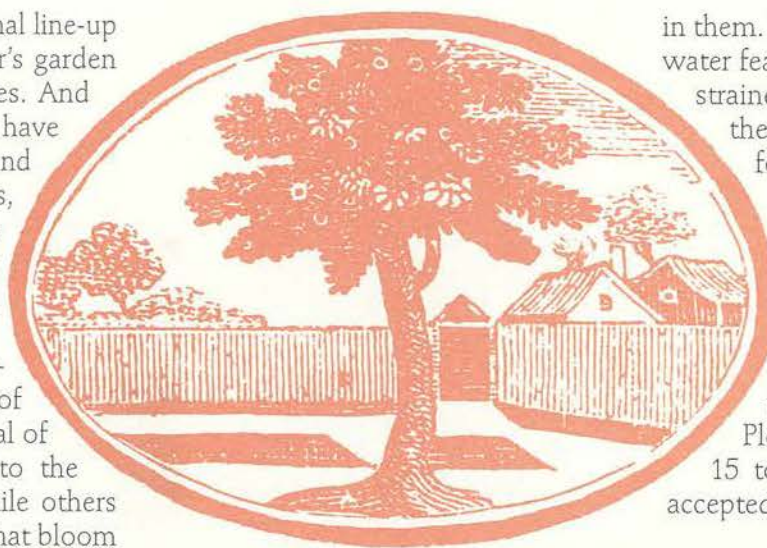
But he apparently wasn't too worried. After all, it is nicer and cooler here at the Montecito estate than it ever was through the year in the former home in hot Tucson. Besides, Willie was keeping his eye on the gate. If his keeper, veteran chauffeur and aide to Mme. Ganna Walska Troy Smith, left that gate open, Willie might decide to take a look at the outside world too.



Garden Tours 2001

WHILE WE DON'T HAVE the final line-up of gardens yet for this year's garden tours, we do have the dates. And as those of you know who have joined the tours (or tried to and couldn't!) in previous years, they fill up in a hurry, so send in your coupon now for either or both April 14th and June 23rd.

The April tour is shaping up to be a lively mix of the old and the new. Several of our prospects date back to the first half of the 1900s, while others are as fresh as the flowers that bloom



in them. In June, the focus will be on water features. From grandiose to restrained, elaborate to minimalist, these gardens have water as a focal point. Both Saturday tours departing from Lotusland begin at 9:00 AM and return by 4:00 PM. The cost is \$85 members/\$95 non-members, which includes admission, coach transportation, and a tasty lunch. Please use the coupon on page 15 to sign up. Reservations are accepted by mail only.

—Virginia Hayes

Madame Ganna Walska

AN ILLUSTRATED LECTURE ON LOTUSLAND'S CREATOR

WITH JANET EASTMAN

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2:00 PM



MADAME GANNA WALSKA was an extraordinary woman by anyone's standards. This self-proclaimed "enemy of the average" embarked upon an operatic career as a young woman with a passion that would later manifest itself in her incredible gardens. *Breathtakingly beautiful, whimsical, outlandish, bold;* these terms have been used to describe both Madame Walska and the gardens she fashioned at Lotusland.

Please join us for an in-depth look at Madame Walska's life with this slide presentation by Lotusland historian Janet Eastman.

Champagne and hors d'oeuvres will be served on the terrace following the presentation.

Cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. Please use the coupon on page 15 to sign up.

Friends of Lotusland

We Welcome New Members Who Joined
in November, December 2000, January 2001

LEVEL I

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Adams
Ms. Lucille Ainge
Ms. Christine Amos
Ms. Dianne Armitage
Mr. J.A. Ted Baer
Ms. Ruth Ellen Billion
Ms. Karen Boaz
Ms. Karin Brinkley
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Broderick
Ms. Carol Brown
Dr. & Mrs. Ted Chaffee
Mr. Fred Chaimson
Mr. Newt Chamberlin
Ms. Polly Clement
Mr. Pedro Aguilar Corona
Mr. John P. Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Charles De L'Arbre
Ms. Margaret Dear
Ms. Susan Dewey
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Eigner
Ms. Anne Todd Erikson
Ms. Heather Fields
Casey & Shelly Fitzpatrick
Mrs. Carter Flemming
Ms. Eileen Foster
Ms. Maria Gilbert
Ms. Sheila Hollingshead
Bruce G. Howard, M.D.
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Howell
Ms. Joanne Jubelier
Ms. Jencie Kainz
Mr. & Mrs. James J. Keenan
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Kyriaco
Mr. James Kyriaco, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Kyriaco, Sr.
Ms. Peggy Linton
Ms. Cathleen Lynch
Ms. Madhu Mandavia
Mr. Donald A. McGilvray III
Mr. Michael Mekjian
Mr. & Mrs. Parviz Minoo
Ms. Joan Oliver
Ms. Bettie Pardee
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Pickett
Ms. Jackie Quinn
Mr. Lanny Ryan
Mr. & Mrs. Bud Sandwall
Ms. Georgia Scherrek
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Seigner

Mr. & Mrs. Dick Smith
Ms. Leila Srouf
Ms. Pamela Stanbrough
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Stanley
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Sterne
Mr. Nick Strausfeld
Ms. Joan Thomas
Ms. Anne Tichenor-Perez
Ms. Joan A. Von Kuhlberg
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Webber
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Weiner
Ms. Barbara White
Ms. Barbara Widstrand

LEVEL II

Ms. Sharon Anderson
Ms. Norma Bakalian
Mr. Matthew Bialecki
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Brill
Ms. Shandra Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. Harv Champlin
Ms. Anne Collier
Ms. Sue Cook
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dallett
Ms. Jacqueline Dyson
Ms. Carole East
Dr. & Mrs. Allen J. Enlow
Mr. & Mrs. Clark Ficke
Ms. Sybil Flintoff
Ms. Saunie Krewson
Mr. Tom Liebengood
Mr. Michael Ling
Ms. Anjani Mandavia
Ms. Marsha Marcoe
Ms. Margy McDonnell
Ms. Lori Meschler
Ms. Kathleen Mitchell
Ms. Frances Morehart
Ms. Claire Munz
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Ms. Beverly Plummer
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Ms. Lanis Ashford Speights
Ms. Jordana Stark
Ms. Dorcas Thille
Ms. Judith Villa
Mr. & Mrs. John Walker
Ms. Edina Weinstein
Mr. & Mrs. David Wexler

Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

November, December 2000,
January 2001

GRANTS

Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust
to set up a horticultural research
office and laboratory

GENERAL DONATIONS

California Association of Nurserymen
Channel Islands Chapter
Mr. & Mrs. William Frazier
Ms. Lynn Greenwald
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Lehman
Mr. Franklin P. Rogers

PLANTS

Ms. Harriet Berk

SPECIAL DONATION

Mr. Stuart Brant
restoration of commemorative
plaque for Theatre Garden

Members Who Have Increased Their Level of Support

November, December 2000,
January 2001

LEVEL II

Ms. Wendy Edlen
Tichenor & Thorpe Architects
Mr. & Mrs. James Wolfe

LEVEL III

Dr. & Mrs. George Halling

LEVEL IV

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence N.
Bailard
Mr. & Mrs. William G. Myers

Madame Ganna Walska

An Illustrated Lecture on Lotusland's Creator With JANET EASTMAN
\$25/members • \$30/nonmembers

Saturday, March 17, 2001, 2:00 PM Number of people attending _____ Total \$ _____

Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐ Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Expiration date _____

Card number _____ Signature _____

Member name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

*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

Private Gardens

With VIRGINIA HAYES

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

\$35/members • \$95/nonmembers (INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION, ENTRANCE FEES, AND LUNCH)

Saturday, April 14, 2001 Number of people attending _____ Total \$ _____

Saturday, June 23, 2001 Number of people attending _____ Total \$ _____

Educational Outreach Teachers' Workshop

A FIRST-TIME TEACHERS' WORKSHOP was held on Saturday, January 27, for fourth-grade teachers participating in Lotusland's Educational Outreach program.

Dr. Steven Timbrook gave an opening address to the group briefly

outlining the history of the program and defining some of its goals. Teachers were introduced to new curriculum materials, and several outreach docents were on hand to take them on tour, pointing out some of the "kid elements" they

focus on during student visits. Apres-tour refreshments were served while workshop participants enjoyed the beautiful artwork and creative projects received from students who have visited Lotusland through the outreach program.



Teachers enjoy their garden tour with outreach docent Gloria Molnar (on left).



After touring the garden, teachers enjoyed refreshments while viewing beautiful student artwork.

Gianna Walska Lotusland Foundation

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Member Events *March through June*

MANY LOTUSLAND EVENTS are open to non-members, so let your friends and neighbors know about the great activities we offer. And once again this year, we are offering several opportunities to bring children to the garden. Kids and grandkids are welcome at many events, and Family Tour days are scheduled twice every month (see the last item in the listing). We hope you will enjoy the year 2001 at Lotusland.

Saturday, March 17

Madame Ganna Walska

2:00 PM

Illustrated lecture by Lotusland historian Janet Eastman, followed by champagne on the terrace. MEMBERS \$25; NONMEMBERS \$30. Use the coupon on page 15 to sign up.

Saturday, March 24

Self-guided Tours for All Members

1:30–4:30 PM

MEMBERS \$15 or use admission passes. Call 969-9990 for reservations 9 AM–noon.

Saturday, April 14

Private Gardens with Curator Virginia Hayes

9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Private gardens tour with Lotusland's Curator of Collections. Includes lunch. MEMBERS \$85; NONMEMBERS \$95. Use the coupon on page 15 to sign up.

Saturday, April 28

Members' Family Day

10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Don't miss the fun! This year... educational activities for the whole family, picnic lunch on the lawn, music, entertainment and *room for more guests!* Free to members to thank you for your support of the garden! Use the coupon on page 9 to sign up.

May 7-11

Springtime in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys: A Gardener's Paradise

Contact tour coordinator Kathy O'Leary at (805) 967-7264. Wait list only.

Sunday, May 20

Topiary Garden Ribbon Cutting

4:00 PM
Madame Walska's topiary zoo will be officially opened and dedicated in honor of Carol Valentine. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. By invitation only to donors of the Topiary Garden Campaign.

Saturday, June 23

Water Gardens with Virginia Hayes

10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Explore private water gardens with Lotusland's Curator of Collections. Includes lunch. MEMBERS \$85, NONMEMBERS \$95. Use the coupon on page 15 to sign up.



FAMILY TOURS

Remember, family tours for all ages are offered the first Thursday morning of each month at 10:00 AM and the third Thursday afternoon of each month at 1:30 PM. Family tours are kid and parent friendly and are separate from regular adult tours. ADULT MEMBERS \$15 or use admission passes; CHILDREN UNDER TEN \$10; CHILDREN UNDER TWO free. Call 969-9990 for reservations 9 AM–noon.