



# LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS  VOLUME II NO. 1  SPRING 2002

## Lotusland Inaugurates New Public Programs Department

By CONNIE BUXTON

IT WAS MADAME WALSKA'S wish to ... "develop Lotusland to its maximum capacity into the most outstanding center of horticultural significance and educational use." Thus, education has always been a major component of Lotusland's mission, along with our goals of preservation and conservation. Beginning this year, all of our education programs are operated out of the newly created Public Programs Department. Our docent program, outreach program, workshops, lectures, internship programs and our speakers bureau all fall under the umbrella of public programs. The Visitor Services office, which arranges public tour reservations, docent scheduling, hospitality, and a wide variety of special activities, has also been made part of the Public Programs Department. The following is an overview of educational offerings available for our members, students, and the public.

### DOCENTS: INTERPRETERS OF THE GARDEN

LOTUSLAND DOES NOT HAVE interpretive displays because of aesthetic considerations, and while the garden speaks for itself on many fronts, our docents serve as interpreters of the garden to visitors. All docents attend a rigorous five-month docent training program that provides pertinent historical and horticultural information about the estate and prepares them to lead public tours of the garden.

*Continued on page 2*



*Fourth graders enjoy hands-on learning about the fur on "panda's ears," which is a drought-tolerant adaptation to capture and retain moisture.*

DEBBIE HILD

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Instructors are drawn from Lotusland staff, the Santa Barbara community, and other California academic and horticultural institutions. We strive to hold our docents to high standards as ambassadors of Lotusland. For this reason, the content and expectations of docent training are quite exacting. After digesting an impressive amount of curriculum, they must prove they are ready to lead tours by being evaluated by a veteran docent while leading their own tour. Stage fright is a common occurrence, but eventually most trainees pass the muster and join the ranks of Lotusland's very special docent corps.



CONNIE BUXTON

*Mike Delgado discusses the monarch nursery with fourth graders in Lotusland's insectary/butterfly garden.*

## LOTUSLAND: AN OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

INSTRUCTORS FROM VARIOUS academic institutions bring their classes to Lotusland, incorporating the garden into their curriculum. Students in an array of disciplines such as art, botany and other sciences, landscape design, photography, and creative writing come to the garden for instruction and inspiration. Dr. Bruce Tiffney's paleobotany students from UC Santa Barbara, Jerry Sortomme's Environmental Horticulture students from Santa Barbara City College, Japanese exchange students enrolled in Ornamental Horticulture from Hartnell College in Salinas, California, plant taxonomy classes from Westmont College, Gary Brown's Art Studio students from UC Santa Barbara, and Greg Stathakis' English composition students from Santa Barbara High School are just a few of the instructors and institutions using Lotusland as an outdoor classroom.

## FOURTH GRADE OUTREACH PROGRAM

THE GOAL OF THE Outreach Program is to teach some basic botanical concepts that will help local fourth

graders understand and appreciate their own natural environment and the important role all plants play in sustaining life on earth. The current year is funded by a grant from the Bernstein Family Fund and the Santa Barbara Foundation. Lotusland will host nearly 800 fourth graders from eleven elementary schools this year. In 2003 every elementary school in the Santa Barbara School District, as well as the Montecito Union and Cold Spring School Districts, will be represented with approximately 1,000 students participating.

Teachers receive curriculum materials early in the year and are invited to Lotusland for a Saturday workshop and tour before the program begins. The workshop allows teachers to become familiar with the expectations of the program and is an ideal way for them to meet staff and docents involved in the program. Docents give classroom presentations combining botany and sustainable plant health care. Outreach docents are recruited from the larger docent pool and are specially trained to lead focused, interactive tours, using the garden as an outdoor laboratory. Study tours of Lotusland are the culmination of the program.



## WORKSHOPS AND LECTURES

LOTUSLAND OFFERS A VARIETY of lectures and workshops to members, as well as the public, throughout the year. For example, this summer we will inaugurate an aquatic plant lecture series during the height of blooming season for lotuses and water lilies in Lotusland's famed water gardens. To enjoy these distinctively beautiful and elegant plants at their peak, coupled with the opportunity to learn the fascinating details of their life, is truly a unique educational offering.

Lotusland shares its model for sustainable methods of plant health care with professionals in the horticultural field, as well as the general public, through Sustainability Workshops. Over a 15-year period, the horticultural staff led by Plant Health Care Manager John Lafleur developed a model for landscape maintenance without the use of toxic chemicals or pesticides. Nutrient recycling and incorporating mulch and compost to nurture a healthy soil food web allow nature to do the job of maintaining healthy plants. If Lotusland can entrust the care of its rare, exotic, and endangered plants to these methods, then anyone can incorporate them into their own garden maintenance. On June 15, Lotusland will present a sustainability workshop that shows the home gardener how this can be done. This workshop is made possible by funding from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust. (For more information, please see page 6.)

## INTERSHIPS

### WORK STUDY PROGRAM

BEGUN IN 1989, a partnership between Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) and Lotusland provides students with an opportunity to learn from and work alongside horticultural staff while pursuing their educational requirements. Lotusland offers two paid semester-long positions, and often the same two students continue working in the garden for both

semesters. In the summer, Lotusland offers one full-time temporary position to one of the work study students. There is a continuous demand for more help in the garden, and the staff is very appreciative of these extra sets of hands from the work study students. The students, in return, learn cutting-edge methods of plant health care and maintenance. Jerry Sortomme, the leader of SBCC's acclaimed Environmental Horticulture program, is retiring this year after being a supportive and influential figure in so many students' lives. The successful partnership will continue, but Jerry will be sorely missed.

### SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

EACH YEAR, A HORTICULTURAL INTERN is selected from a pool of applicants from colleges and universities around the country. Applicants must be currently enrolled in or recently graduated from an accredited, college-level horticultural program or internship. For the three summer months, the intern lives at Lotusland in the pavilion and assists in landscape installation, equipment maintenance, and curatorial activities. Working in all areas of the garden, including the greenhouses and nursery, interns gain valuable hands-on experience from Lotusland's talented horticultural staff.

### SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURAL PRACTICES INTERNSHIP

STARTING IN SPRING 2003, local organizations can obtain one or two weeklong internships to learn about Lotusland's sustainable methods of plant health care. Interns will gain theoretical as well as hands-on experience that equips them to design and manage a similar program in any urban horticultural situation. In the planning stages is a similar three-month program for a resident student intern.

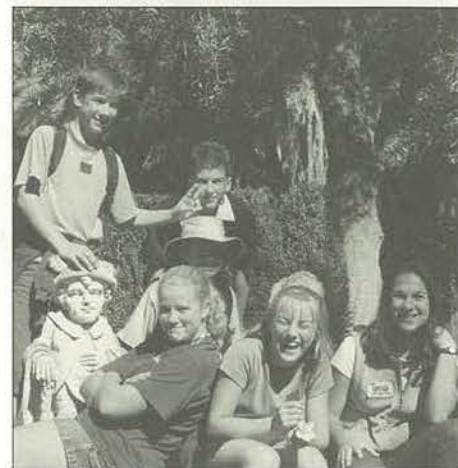
### LOTUSLAND SPEAKERS BUREAU

LOTUSLAND STAFF MEMBERS are available to give presentations on a variety of subjects to community groups,

botanic gardens, and a host of other organizations. Curator Virginia Hayes is an aquatic plant specialist and offers her botanical expertise in other areas as well. Executive Director Steven Timbrook's talks are a mixture of botany and history, combining his professional expertise with his world travels. Plant Health Care Manager John Lafleur's presentation on Lotusland's sustainable landscape practices provides an insight into nature's fascinating mechanisms for maintaining healthy soil and plant life. Other staff members have developed informative presentations as well and are important members of the Speakers Bureau. Call Connie Buxton at 805-969-3767, extension 107, to request a speaker.

NO MATTER WHAT THE OCCASION or how zany and outlandish the entertainment and activities, there is always an underlying educational component to all events at Lotusland. *Lotusland Celebrates*, our yearly gala and fundraiser, often includes an historical aspect of the estate as a theme, and the popular Members' Family Day provides fun-filled learning opportunities for members and their families. This year the theme is "Plant Magic."

In keeping with our mission and Madame Walska's wishes, the garden truly is an outstanding center of horticultural significance and educational use.



Santa Ynez Junior High students ham it up in Lotusland's theatre garden.



# Horticultural Happenings

## NEW ROSES

ALL OF THE ROSES in pots and in the parterre planting beds were replaced with new rose plants in January after a great deal of discussion with staff members and with rose consultants. A fungal stem canker and bacterial crown gall infecting the collection was beyond the point of cultural management. For several years, the roses had been a successful example of sustainable horticultural practices with a healthy soil foodweb and nutrient cycling providing most of the plants' cultural requirements. Mulch and compost tea were the primary inputs to the dynamic system. It was disappointing to see the system crash, but being made aware of the fragility of a sustainable system in a cultivated area was a valuable lesson. We were reminded of the importance of monitoring conditions regularly, providing mulch and other inputs in a timely manner, and clean maintenance practices.

After removing the diseased roses, staff prepared the soil with a

Lotusland compost amendment and planted three rows of floribundas (Trumpeter, Amber Queen, Betty Boop) in each planting bed, a climber (Dortmund) on the trellis, and a floribunda (Bill Warriner) in the pots on the parterre terrace. The low-volume irrigation system was reinstalled and the planting beds covered with a uniform-sized and dark-colored composted woody mulch. A compost tea application was made as new leaves emerged. Soil conditions already look good with many earthworms indicating a healthy system.

## CYCAD GARDEN PROJECT—2002

2002 IS YEAR FOUR of a five-year cycad garden cultural improvement and renovation plan, funded by the Andrew H. Burnett Foundation.

In 1999, plantings of *Encephalartos horridus* were removed from the garden for storage in a newly constructed hoop house with bottom-heated raised beds. Approximately 400 tons of garden soil infected with oak root fungus was replaced with a topsoil, amended with compost, and planted with a soil-enhancing cover crop. Phase one of a sub-surface drainage grid for the cycad garden was installed.

In 2000, additional sub-surface drainage was added to the system. Twenty-two eucalyptus trees that shaded and competed with the cycad understory were removed. Several multi-trunk *Chamaerops humilis* clumps were transplanted out of cycad planting beds to periphery locations and many *E. horridus* were transplanted back to the garden. Other cycads in areas infected with oak root fungus were removed to the hoop house to allow for soil renovation work.

Last year, more sub-surface drainage was added to the system, old irrigation lines were replaced, and new lines were extended to

outlying areas. A raised planting bed with a soil-enhancing cover crop was constructed for a future planting of *Macrozamia*, and *E. horridus* remaining in the hoop house were transplanted back to the garden. Various species of bamboo were planted to screen the cycad garden from Sycamore Canyon Road, and an insectary planting was installed just outside the garden proper.

This year will be a busy one in the cycad garden. We will plant 30 to 40 *Macrozamia* in the raised bed created last year, and sandstone boulders will enhance the landscape. Another raised planting bed will be prepared for future plantings of *Macrozamia*. The garden staff will plant about 60 *Zamia* from the Lotusland nursery in an area that will include a display area for greenhouse specimens. The entire garden will be mulched with a uniform-sized, dark-colored composted woody mulch.

Be sure to check out the progress in the cycad garden when you visit Lotusland in 2002. —Mike Iven



MIKE IVEN

Bare root roses were planted high enough to accommodate the addition of three to four inches of mulch.



MIKE

Corey Welles is pictured with a tripod and winch system that allowed rooted cycads to be gently transplanted back into the garden.



# Lotusland's Best Management Practices: Weed Management



MIKE IVEN

*An insectary/butterfly garden not only is an attractive addition to the landscape, but also provides habitat for beneficial insects.*

HISTORICALLY, LOTUSLAND USED herbicides in many areas of the garden for weed control. Though at one time, they were considered to be completely safe, research continues to disclose the health hazards of these chemicals to people and to the soil biology. Materials such as 2-4-D used for selective weed control in turf is a proven carcinogen. There are many alternatives to use in place of chemicals once thought to be indispensable. Weeds are evidence of nature working to restore natural succession and biodiversity. Anything that covers the bare ground will discourage weeds. Mulches (natural

and synthetic), grass (turf or natural meadows), ground cover, and cover crops are some of the ways to displace unwanted weedy species.

## MULCH

NATURAL MULCHES discourage weeds and return badly needed organic matter to the soil. Mulch layers must be replenished as they break down or they will provide a great environment for a new crop of weeds.

Placing layers of old newspaper or cardboard underneath the mulch to further inhibit the growth of weeds enhances the effectiveness of mulch. The cellulose adds organic matter to the soil as the paper decomposes.

## PLANT COVER CROPS

IN LARGE WEEDY AREAS, a cover crop competes with the weedy species. Insectary type plants, ornamental grasses, and/or a selected seed mix occupy space where weeds once grew and increase the garden's biodiversity. Cover crops can be managed with the proper equipment with very little effort.

## PLANT UNUSED AREAS TO ATTRACT BENEFICIAL INSECTS

INSECTARY AREAS compete with weeds and, as an added bonus, provide screening and habitat for beneficial insects and other wildlife. Nurseries and mail order companies offer special insectary seed mixes.

## MECHANICAL WEED CONTROL

PULLING WEEDS with a hand tool or a stringline trimmer is a viable option to using herbicides in many areas. Technology offers additional alternatives such as flaming, a method that utilizes a special apparatus to kill weeds with heat. There is also a machine that uses superheated steam to kill weeds.

## IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF TURF TO OUT-COMPETE WEEDS

WEEDS IN TURF are usually an indication of poor cultural practices. With improved irrigation systems and practices such as a fertigation system, improved maintenance, and cultural practices including recycler mowers and the use of organic fertilizers, turf grass will out-compete most weeds. Corn gluten meal provides some nitrogen and can be used as a pre-emergent herbicide to inhibit weed seed germination.

—Mike Iven

## Increased Family Tours in 2002



CONNIE BUXTON

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN under 10 now have expanded options for visiting Lotusland. Every Thursday and the second Saturday of each month are designated Family Tour days, and a special docent is scheduled just for the purpose of leading young families through the garden. Children 10 years of age and older are welcome to visit the garden with their families on any regularly scheduled tour day. Call the Visitor Services office at 805-969-9990 to schedule a tour.



CONNIE BUXTON



# Everyman's Guide to Sustainable Gardening

## LOTUSLAND SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

TO MOST PEOPLE, "beneficial fungi" means a nice plate of sautéed mushrooms. To botanists, however, bene-



CONNIE BUXTON

*Disa Lindberg-Perkins collects beneficial insects for release in other parts of the garden.*

ficial fungi are a naturally occurring component of healthy soil ecosystems, and at Lotusland, we encourage beneficial fungi as part of our plant health care program.

Join us at a workshop to learn how to incorporate sustainable gardening practices into your home landscape maintenance. Discovering the intricate mechanisms that have evolved over the millennia to ensure a healthy planet is both fascinating and humbling. Applying these lessons and working with nature to maintain plant health is a primary focus of our sustainable landscape methods, and our June workshop

will show you how it's done. Workshop presenters are from Lotusland's horticultural staff, Growing Solutions, and Dietrick Institute for Applied Insect Ecology. These organizations are all committed to promoting education about improving the health of plants using environmentally safe methods that are more reminiscent of a natural system. This workshop is made possible through a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust.

The cost of the workshop is \$50 and includes lunch. Please use the coupon on page 15.

—Connie Buxton

## Private Gardens Tours

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

IN A SLIGHT DEPARTURE from our past garden tours, Lotusland's Curator of the Living Collection, Virginia Hayes, will take us a little farther away than usual. The April 27th tour will begin with visits to private gardens in Carpinteria and Somis, followed by lunch on the lawn of an historic ranch under massive palms and elm trees. After lunch, we'll visit two special nurseries with awe-inspiring displays.

Otto and Sons will be hosting its annual Rose Days event with "100,000 blooming rose plants" on view, and nearby is John Schustra's latest addition to Greenwood Daylilies. Not only does his Somis location have about 400 varieties of daylilies and 100 types of cannas, but also approximately 1,000 varieties of iris in the ground that should be in bloom by April 27th. The day will be filled with great gardens and beautiful plants, and there's a good chance the wildflowers will be putting on a

show in the hills nearby. The bus departs Lotusland at 9:15 AM (please arrive at 9:00 AM for check-in) and returns at 4:00 PM.

Saturday, June 8th, is the date for the second of Virginia's garden tours. This one will fall into the usual pattern of her previous tours, though the gardens themselves promise to be anything but the usual fare. A handful (maybe more!) of gardens large and small will be opened exclusively to our group. From a beach house (or two) to an historic inn and more, there will be interesting plants, great design, and helpful information from owners and/or designers.

The cost of each tour is \$85 for members and \$95 for non-members, including lunch and transportation. Members may use one pass for \$15 off the price. Please use the coupon on page 15 to sign up. Be sure to sign up soon as these tours usually sell out quickly.

## Hats Off to Hania

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL to Hania Tallmadge for her recent donation of a collection of 45 hats that formerly belonged to her aunt, Ganna Walska. These fabulous hats are the subject of a Lotusland event featuring Dale Gluckman, Associate Curator of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's Department of Costumes and Textiles, planned for early in 2003.



WM. B. DEWEY





## Two New Trustees Join the Board of Lotusland

LOTUSLAND IS PLEASED TO WELCOME Ella Brittingham and Sandra Nicholson to our Board of Trustees. Both are active in the Santa Barbara community and look forward to helping Lotusland accomplish its goals of preservation, education, and conservation.

**Ella Brittingham** is originally from Pasadena and attended the



Ella Brittingham

University of Southern California where she earned a B.A. in English and Cinema/Television. Through her work as an interior designer, Ella has decorated homes in Pasadena, Pacific Palisades, and Montecito. In 1996, she moved to Santa Barbara where she lives with her husband, Scott, and their daughter, Poppy. In addition to her involvement at Lotusland, Ella is an active volunteer at Montessori Center School in Goleta and at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Prior to joining the Lotusland Board, Ella was a member of the *Lotusland Celebrates* planning committee.

**Sandra Nicholson** has been a part-time resident of Montecito since 1992, having had homes in Texas, Michigan, Montana, Colorado, and Oklahoma. A graduate of Oklahoma State University, she taught school in Oklahoma, Texas, and Mexico. Prior to her marriage to Bill Nicholson, she owned several businesses, including

a design firm and other companies, which involved importing, manufacturing, wholesaling, and retailing of residential and commercial products. Sandra currently serves on the Girls Inc. 100 Committee and the board of The Breast Cancer Resource Center. Since 1992, she has been an active supporter of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and other cancer institutes.



Sandra Nicholson

### IN MEMORIAM

## Robert Foster

LOTUSLAND IS SADDENED to learn of the death, in January, of Robert Foster.

In the mid-1970s, Bob and his professional partner, Charles Glass, completely redesigned Madame Walska's aloe garden and the cacti and euphorbia plantings along the main drive. Their contributions to Lotusland were described in *The Glass and Foster Years at Lotusland, 1973-1983* in the Spring 1995 issue of this newsletter. Charlie's passing was noted in the Summer 1998 issue. Those of us who worked with or knew Bob will miss him, as we do Charlie.

## In Search of Ceratozamia

A YEAR HAS COME AND GONE since cycad grower (and Lotusland docent) Jeff Chemnick and Lotusland's Curator of the Living Collection, Virginia Hayes, returned from an exciting trip to Mexico to collect cycads. The plants they brought back are putting out new roots and becoming accustomed to their new home in southern California, but it's always fun to relive past adventures.

At 2:00 PM on Saturday, May 4th, you will have a chance to see some of the sights they saw and hear a few of the tales. Join them *In Search of Ceratozamia*, a slide show of their trip to the eastern states of Mexico. Refreshments on the patio and a chance to chat with the speakers will follow. Cost is \$25 members/\$30 non-members (members may use one pass for \$15 off the lecture). Please use the coupon on page 15.



*Ceratozamia whitelockiana* growing on a steep slope in Oaxaca, Mexico.



# Members' Family Day Plant

SATURDAY, APRIL 20 • 10 AM

*Lotusland wishes to thank you, our members, for your support by hosting our fifth annual Members' Family Day. Generously co-sponsored by*

*The Robert & Christine Emmons Foundation and Thomas & Nancy*

Activities will include:



*The Mark Collier Magic Show  
in the theatre garden  
11:30 TO NOON  
AND 2:30 TO 3 PM*



*Games and crafts  
from the garden  
for children and adults  
10 AM TO NOON AND 2 TO 4 PM*



*Magical Mystery Tour—  
clues to find magic plant  
garden and take home  
10 AM TO NOON AND 2 TO 4 PM*

## Members' Family Day is FREE!

But you must make a reservation by mailing the coupon to save your space and to purchase box lunch tickets. We expect this event to fill very quickly.

Bring your own picnic or pre-purchase a box lunch.

Tickets for box lunches are available until April 12 and will be mailed to you prior to the event.

(It will not be possible to purchase a box lunch on the day of the event.)

A limited number of picnic blankets will be available, or you can bring your own.

*Adult-sized lunches include a sandwich, pasta salad, chips, and fruit cup.  
Child-sized lunches include a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, chips, and fruit cup.*

*Complimentary cake and soft drinks served on the main lawn  
NOON TO 2 PM.*



# Music in the Garden!

10 4 PM

Family Day. Everyone is invited, especially children of all ages!

Lawford, Jr. in honor of their grandchildren



Free silly souvenir  
photographs by  
Bob DeBris

10 AM TO NOON AND 2 TO 4 PM



Peter Feldmann and  
The Very Lonesome Boys  
Live music on the main lawn  
NOON TO 2 PM

## RESERVATION FORM

To reserve space for you and your family, complete this coupon and mail to: Ganna Walska Lotusland, Attn: Member Events, 695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108. **No phone reservations, please.** Confirmations of box lunch tickets will be sent upon our receipt of your reservation.

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children under 10 \_\_\_\_\_ Number of cars \_\_\_\_\_

Bring your own picnic or order prepaid box lunches here.  
Please specify your choice(s) of sandwich by writing in the number of each.

Adult's lunch (\$12): Turkey \_\_\_\_\_ Roast beef \_\_\_\_\_ Avocado & cheese \_\_\_\_\_

Child's lunch (\$7): Peanut Butter & Jelly with chips and fruit cup \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method:

Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

## RAFFLE TICKETS

Available now and at Members' Family Day for a huge Lotusland gift basket filled with an assortment of books, Lotusland apparel, stuffed animals, note cards, games, crafts and many more garden goodies for the whole family, plus a Level III Membership (\$500) that includes an invitation to the Upper Level Members' Cocktail Party and Lecture *Sex in Your Garden* with noted author Angela Overy on October 12. The basket has a retail value of more than \$1,000!

*This is your chance to win BIG  
and support Lotusland at the same time!  
Drawing held at 2 PM.  
You need not be present to win!  
Three (3) chances for only \$25.*

Payment \$25.00 for three (3) chances to WIN

☐ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Chance to WIN

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

### Chance to WIN

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

### Chance to WIN

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_



## Volunteer Profile: B. Jo Dake

DOUG FARRELL



B. JO DAKE'S CONTRIBUTIONS to Lotusland are varied and extraordinary. At last count, she has volunteered more than 6,000 hours in her roles as founder and manager of the Lotusland gift shop, as a member of the Board of Trustees, and as one of our first Docents.

Her affiliation began in 1986, when she was one of six docents from the Santa Barbara Botanic

Garden to lead tours for horticultural groups that visited Lotusland before it was officially open to the public.

In 1991, B. Jo joined the Lotusland Board of Trustees, and in 1992 she was asked to establish a garden gift shop to be located at the new Visitor Center. B. Jo says "my only retail experience was as a shopper," but she did possess creativity, intelligence, and enthusiasm. Those traits, combined with many hours of work, came to fruition on September 15, 1993 when the shop opened to the public. Under B. Jo's management, the garden shop served approximately 83,000 shoppers who spent \$427,944 during the past 10 years. During its first year of operation, the shop brought in \$11,600, and by 2001 it increased to more than \$73,500. This is a remarkable contribution to Lotusland, one that is very much appreciated by her fellow board members who honored and thanked her at the December board meeting. After this very successful run, B. Jo is stepping down as manager, but will continue to order books for the shop.

B. Jo is a lifelong volunteer, beginning at the age of 15 in Mexico City. She moved from Cedar Rapids, Iowa to Santa Barbara in 1979 and, amazingly, finds time to volunteer for other local groups as well as Lotusland. She currently is a member of the UCSB Foundation Board of Directors, the president of the UCSB Affiliates Board of Directors, and also chairs the Affiliates' Spirituality & Culture lecture series. In addition to her university work, B. Jo is a Lay Eucharistic Minister for All Saints By the Sea Episcopal Church and is a member of its Listening Hearts Ministry program, as well as its Health Ministries Council.

During her 16 years at Lotusland, B. Jo has continued to lead docent tours, though not as often as she would have liked. So in addition to serving as a Trustee, she plans to make giving regular docent tours a priority. Lotusland is fortunate to have a dedicated volunteer like B. Jo—and we are grateful that she cares so much about Lotusland.

—Deanna Hatch, Debbie Hild

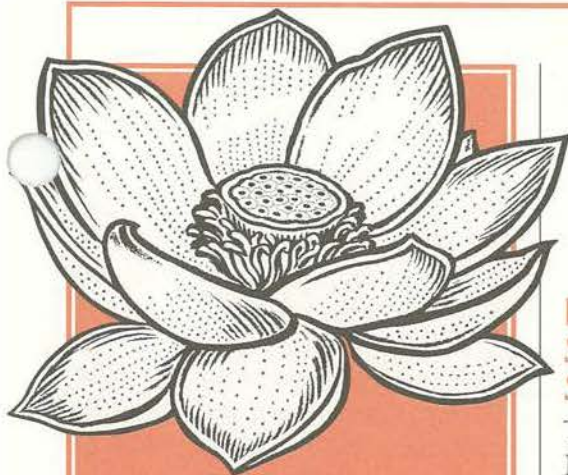
## Docent Graduation

AFTER FIVE MONTHS of rigorous docent training, Lotusland welcomes 37 new docents to their talented docent corps. Newly graduated docents gather for a group photo. In alphabetical order by last name, graduates are: Rike Baldino, Doris Blethrow, Pat Boyd, Janet Boyle, Linda Bregante, Hope Cull, Karen Davidson, Say Dempsay, Lore Dobler, Margaret Dodd, Tom Durkin, Carol Ferguson, Ingrid Go, Mary Hagar, Faye Hampton, Martha Jess, Jan Johnson, Jill Kent, Harlis Maggard, Julie Manson, Tish O'Connor, Jean Parry, Linda Proud, Bob Rottenberg, Lynne Scott, Anitra Sheen, Pat Sheppard, Barbara Silver, Gordon Stoppel, John Tesman, Sherman Vincent, Ann Wilson. *Graduates not in photo:* Michele Bellerue, Beth Hamilton, Eve Miller, Carolyn Pappas, Noreen Theede.



VIRGINIA HAYE





## The LOTUS SOCIETY

### THE LOTUS SOCIETY CHARTER MEMBERS MARCH 1, 2002

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP in *The Lotus Society* is reserved for individuals who help preserve and enhance Lotusland as a unique botanical treasure by contributing \$10,000 or more to the Endowment Fund either as an outright or estate-planned gift.

Ganna Walska Lotusland wishes to express its appreciation to these generous and far-sighted friends for preserving this extraordinary horticultural garden for the benefit of the community and future generations.

Anonymous (2)

C. Keith Birkenfeld Charitable Trust  
in Honor of Isabelle Birkenfeld

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If you already have made an estate planning provision for Lotusland, please let us know so that we may thank you and include

you in *The Lotus Society*. If you would like to know more about *The Lotus Society* and how you can help Lotusland, please call Anne Dewey, Director of Development, at 805-969-3767, extension 105.

### RUTH & JACK MAHONEY: STRONG BELIEVERS IN SUSTAINABILITY

THIS DECEMBER, after learning about Lotusland's new planned giving program, Ruth and Jack Mahoney became Charter Members of *The Lotus Society* by contributing a generous, outright gift for Lotusland's Endowment Fund. Executive Director Steven Timbrook spoke recently with Ruth about their decision to help preserve and enhance this unique botanical treasure.

Although Jack and Ruth attended the same high school in their hometown of Kansas City, Missouri, they didn't meet until both had gone away to college, graduated, and then returned to work at the Midwest Research Institute. Ruth had earned her mathematics degree from the University of New Mexico, and Jack his physics degree from the University of Missouri. They later moved to Littleton, Colorado, and then, in 1961, to Santa Barbara, where Jack joined General Motors Research Labs as an engineer. He later moved to Santa Barbara Research Center, where he worked until his retirement.

"I first saw Lotusland in the mid-'60s on a garden tour led by Pearl Chase for Santa Barbara Beautiful," recalls Ruth. "I met Madame Walska, who was wearing a long, flowing gown, as she served punch and cookies to her guests from long tables set up at the entrance to the topiary garden." When Lotusland opened to the public in 1993, Jack and Ruth joined *Friends of Lotusland* and have visited the garden regularly ever since. Ruth especially enjoys the bird-watching walks Lotusland offers from time to time.

During their years in Santa



DEANNA HATCH

Ruth Mahoney

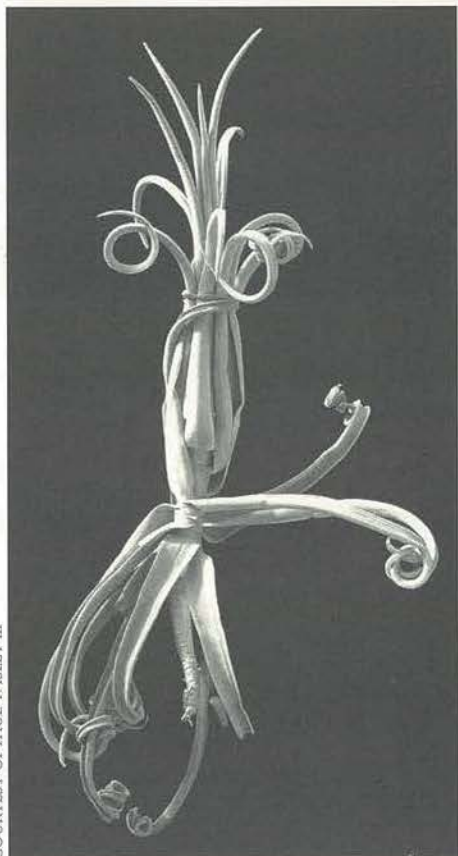
Barbara, Jack and Ruth have taken advantage of many Santa Barbara City College Adult Education classes in everything from nature study, which Ruth especially likes, to Jack's hobby of jewelry making. For several years, Jack enjoyed teaching Adult Education's lapidary class. Most recently, Ruth has taken up piano and is currently enrolled in Adult Education's intermediate piano class.

In addition to appreciating Lotusland as a beautiful public garden, Jack and Ruth are strong believers in the sustainability program Lotusland has developed for care of the grounds and plant collections. "We chose to join *The Lotus Society* with a direct gift rather than a bequest or planned gift, because our funds would go to work for Lotusland immediately. We especially like knowing that our support will go toward keeping the garden in peak condition on into the future and allow Lotusland to use every opportunity to educate the public, from school children to landscape professionals, about sustainable gardening," Ruth explains.

Lotusland deeply appreciates the Mahoneys' friendship and vision in sustaining Lotusland well into the future. —Steven Timbrook



## New to the Collections



COURTESY OF PAUL T. ISLEY III

An exercise in self-strangulation by a *Tillandsia duratii* (with no human help)!

THE SCHEDULE OF SPEAKERS for the recent training program for new docents included Paul Isley, a world-class expert on the genus *Tillandsia*. A member of the bromeliad family, this genus includes mostly epiphytic plants, "air plants," that grow either in tropical forests or in more desert-like habitats. The desert dwellers are among the most striking in the group as they usually have fuzzy exterior coverings. Under the microscope, this fuzz is found to be a very sophisticated and unique type of epidermal hair that allows the plant to capture a very small amount of water and channel it into the plant's cells.

Paul owns Rainforest Flora, a nursery specializing in bromeliads. After reviewing Lotusland's collection, he put together a shipment of *Tillandsias* from his nursery when he returned home. These new plants will find their way into the displays in

our bromeliad garden in the coming months. A few descriptions may pique your interest in searching them out.

Many *Tillandsias* are rather small, reaching just a few inches in diameter. Among them is *T. concolor* with uniformly green leaves in a single rosette. When it comes into bloom, it really grabs attention with its bright, ruby red flowers, a somewhat unusual color in this group of plants. *T. crocata* is even smaller and one of the fuzziest of the air plants. Sulfur yellow flowers that, surprisingly, have a strong sweet fragrance regularly augment the rosettes of very narrow leaves.

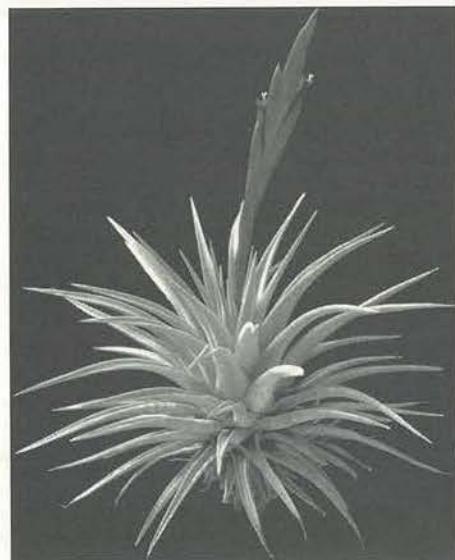
Other species in the genus can reach impressive dimensions. One of those, *T. duratii*, is a bizarre-looking plant that can reach three feet in height with a diameter of 16 inches. While all of its leaves curl somewhat at the tips, its oldest leaves dry into tight curls around the branches of trees and shrubs that it inhabits. It grows naturally in the foothills of the Andes in Argentina and southern Brazil and in the Great Chaco of Western Bolivia, eastern Paraguay and northern Argentina. *T. edithae*, with its crimson and cherry red flowers, make it a favorite among collectors. It grows in a very different type of habitat, on rocky cliffs in Bolivia at elevations near 9000 feet.

*T. rothii* also forms a large plant, 6 to 9 inches across, with recurving leaves. In this species, the leaves provide most of the show. The central ones in the rosette take on lovely bronzy red shades as the plant comes into bloom. The flower spike may also be reddish or yellow and eventually slender, tubular, seafoam green flowers emerge. Growers develop these showy characteristics, of course. *T. streptophylla* x *brachycaulos* 'Eric Knobloch' is a hybrid of two handsome species of larger *Tillandsias* that combines the intense red coloring of the leaves of *T. brachycaulos* with the

interesting curling of the leaves of *T. streptophylla*. In bright light, they will exhibit a deeper color, and with less water the leaves will curl even more strongly.

Color combinations on the flower spikes of bromeliads are often startling, too. The stem and associated leaves may be one color, the outer flower bracts another, and the petals themselves a third color, or even bi-colored. *T. straminea* has flowers that illustrate this well. The outer bracts are pale pink surrounding the emerging inner petals, which are a very pale yellow. Each petal also has a splash of lavender on the lip that looks as if it were painted on with a brush. *T. straminea* is from Peru and Ecuador where it can often be found growing epiphytically on cactus.

The last selection to talk about, *Vriesea espinosae*, looks as if it should be in the genus *Tillandsia*, but botanists have placed it into a different genus based on flower characters. It also grows epiphytically, forming a stiff and symmetrical rosette of densely white haired leaves from 5 to 12 inches across. In bloom, it displays a handsome crimson flower spike from which purple tubular flowers emerge, creating quite a color contrast. —Virginia Hayes



Peruvian form of *Vriesea espinosae*.

COURTESY OF PAUL T. ISLEY III





# Friends of Lotusland

We Welcome New Members\* Who Joined in November, December 2001 and January 2002

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\*Includes gift memberships.



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November, December 2001 and January 2002

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## 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

### In Search of Ceratozamia

\$25/members • \$30/nonmembers • MEMBERS MAY USE ONE PASS FOR \$15 OFF THE LECTURE

Saturday, May 4, 2:00 PM No. of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Garden Tours for Members

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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

Spring • Saturday, April 27 No. of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Summer • Saturday, June 8 No. of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Everyman's Guide to Sustainable Gardening

\$50 • INCLUDES LUNCH

Saturday, June 15, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM No. of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## 2002 Member Events

MANY LOTUSLAND EVENTS are open to non-members, so please let your friends and neighbors know about the great activities we offer. Children are welcome at many events, and Family Tour days have been expanded to include every Thursday and the second Saturday of each month (see the last item in the listing). We hope you continue to enjoy the year 2002 at Lotusland.

### Saturday, April 20

*Members' Family Day*

*Plant Magic in the Garden*

10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Music! Magic! Fun! Horticultural activities for the whole family and a picnic lunch on the lawn. Free admission for members and guests to thank you for your support of the garden. Use the coupon in the centerfold to sign up.

### Saturday, April 27

*Spring Garden Tour for Members*

9:00 AM–4:00 pm

Private gardens tour with Lotusland's Curator of the Living Collection, Virginia Hayes. Includes lunch. Members \$85; non-members \$95. Use the coupon above to sign up.

### Saturday, May 4

*In Search of Ceratozamia*

*Illustrated Lecture*

2:00 PM

You may have read of their adventures in the Summer 2001 Newsletter and now you can see the photographs and hear the stories in their own words when Jeff Chemnick and Virginia Hayes present this lecture. Both Jeff and Virginia were pressing the shutter releases on their cameras while collecting cycads in Mexico in January 2001. Join them for a slide show of their trip followed by refreshments on the patio. Members \$25; non-members \$30 (members may use one pass for

\$15 off the lecture). Use the coupon above to sign up.

### Saturday, May 18

*Self-guided tours for all Members*

10:00 AM–12:30 PM

Members \$15 or use admission pass. Children welcome.

Call 969-9990 for reservations  
9 AM–NOON, M–F.

### Saturday, June 8

*Summer Garden Tour for Members*

9:00 AM–4:00 PM

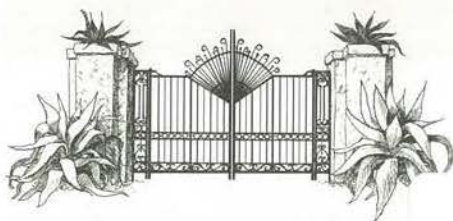
Private gardens tour with Lotusland's Curator of the Living Collection, Virginia Hayes. Includes lunch. Members \$85; non-members \$95. Use the coupon above to sign up.



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**NEW EVENT! SATURDAY, NOV. 16th**  
**LORAN WHITELOCK'S "THE CYCADS"**  
SLIDE PRESENTATION & BOOK SIGNING-- Details in Summer Newsletter!

## 2002 Member Events *Continued*

### Saturday, June 15

#### *Everyman's Guide to Sustainable Gardening*

10:00 AM–4:00 PM

In this hands-on workshop, participants will learn how to incorporate sustainable landscape practices into their own garden maintenance and let nature do the work for them. Look for information on page 6.

12 ● Friday, 2:00 PM–Lecture 1

**JULY 19** ● Friday, 2:00 PM–Lecture 2

26 ● Friday, 2:00 PM–Lecture 3

#### *Aquatic Lecture series*

A new lecture series, featuring talks on several aspects of water gardening and the practicalities of growing aquatic plants, will be inaugurated in the summer. The series coincides with the peak of bloom in Lotusland's own water gardens. Gates open 1½ hours before the lectures begin to allow guests to view the lotuses and water lilies in their prime. Watch for details in future issues of this newsletter. Admission is \$30 for individual lectures; \$75 for the series.

### Sunday, July 28

#### *Lotusland Celebrates Gardens of Enchantment*

4:00–8:00 PM

Lotusland's fabulous annual gala and the hottest ticket in town during the summer. Invitations will be mailed to all members in June—a must-save date for every social calendar.

### Saturday, August 3

#### *Self-guided tours for all Members*

1:30–4:30 PM

Members \$15 or use admission pass. Children welcome.

Call 969-9990 for reservations  
9 AM–NOON, M–F.

### Saturday, October 12

#### *Upper Level Member*

#### *Cocktail Party and Lecture*

#### *Sex in Your Garden!* featuring

the popular and entertaining author and lecturer Angela Overy  
Lecture at 2:00 PM or 4:30 PM

Cocktail Party 3:00–4:30 PM

Get the inside scoop on all the carnal activities in your own backyard. With a flair for the humorous, Angela Overy will talk about the reproductive processes of garden plants and their relationships to their various pollinators. Not to be outdone, our "Sex in Your Garden Committee" plans an over-the-top cocktail party continuing the theme—with lots of sexy surprises. Invitations will be mailed to our

upper-level members (Level III and above) as a thank you for their increased support. This is one you won't want to miss!

### November 15

Garden is closed to regular tours until February 19.

### Saturday, December 7

#### *Holiday shopping, music and self-guided tours*

1:30–4:00 PM

Members \$15 or use admission pass for you and your guests. Children welcome. Beginning October 1, call 969-9990 for reservations 9 AM–NOON, M–F.



### Family Tours

Family tours for all ages are now offered every Thursday at 10 AM and 1:30 PM and on the second Saturday of each month at 10 AM and 1:30 PM (except when we are closed between November 15 and February 19). Family tours are child and parent friendly and are separate from regular adult tours. Adult members \$15 or use admission passes; children under ten \$8; children under two free. Call 969-9990 for reservations 9 AM–NOON, M–F.