

LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS  VOLUME 12 NO. 3  FALL 2003

The *Horticulture Magazine* Award for Garden Excellence

By VIRGINIA HAYES

GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND is very proud to have been named the first recipient of a brand-new award, the "2003 *Horticulture Magazine* Award for Program Excellence" from the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA). Lotusland's Curator of the Living Collection, Virginia Hayes, and Director of Public Programs Connie Buxton represented Lotusland at the awards ceremony held at the AABGA annual conference in Boston, Massachusetts on June 29, 2003.

This prestigious award was created to honor a botanical garden or arboretum that exemplifies the highest standards of horticultural practice. The beauty and diversity of Lotusland's collections and its commitment to the most environmentally appropriate gardening practices were reasons cited by the Awards Committee in their presentation. Lotusland's move toward sustainability and conversion to organic methods of plant health management are significant achievements accomplished in the past four years. Donald Rakow, the director of Cornell Plantations and chair of the AABGA Awards Committee, said, "The committee was extremely impressed with both the beauty and diversity of the collections at Lotusland. Your garden is a living example that diverse collections can be maintained without the use of chemical pesticides or fertilizers."

Continued on page 2



Director of Public Programs Connie Buxton and Curator of the Living Collection Virginia Hayes proudly hold Lotusland's "2003 *Horticulture Magazine* Award for Program Excellence" plaque. Lotusland is the first recipient of this brand-new award from the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta.

IN THIS ISSUE

The <i>Horticulture Magazine</i> Award for Garden Excellence	1	Japanese Garden Aesthetic Pruning Workshop	5
New to the Collections	3	The Lotus Society	6
Cactus Garden Receives Matching Gift from Castagnola Family	3	LotusFest	7
Lotusland's Best Management Practices: Ants	4	Alice in Lotusland	8
Michael Towbes' Generous Gift for Cactus Garden Announced at Merritt Dunlap Birthday Celebration	4	Gena Wirth: Sustainable Plant Health Care Summer Intern	11
Horticultural Happenings	5	Volunteer Profile: Dennis Whelan	12
		Kitchen Renovation	13
		Gardens and Opera in Santa Fe	13
		Gift Membership	16

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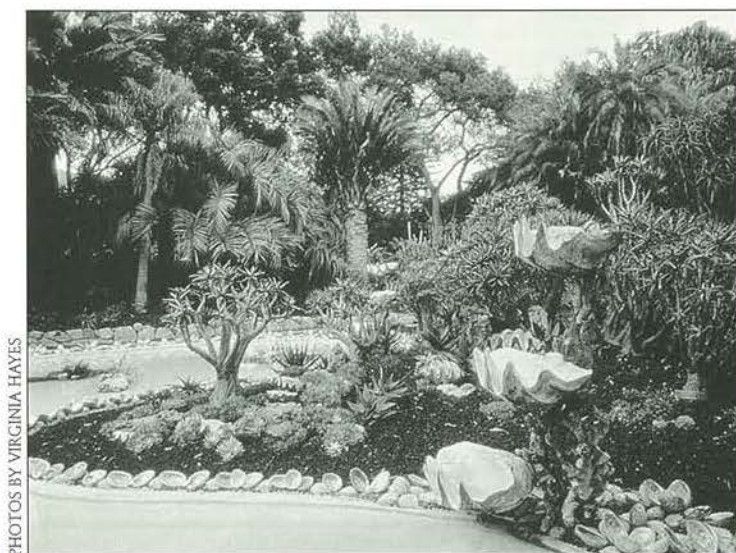
Continued from page 1

The AABGA is a non-profit organization of public gardens in North America. Its mission is to serve and strengthen its member institutions—currently more than 480 member gardens—by supporting and promoting their work, value, and achievements in horticultural display, education, research, and plant conservation. At annual conferences at both the national and regional levels, the AABGA brings together experienced staff from gardens to share their collective knowledge with their colleagues.

Our horticultural intern, Gena Wirth, also attended the conference and was mentored by Virginia as they made contacts with other public garden professionals and enjoyed stimulating presentations on a variety of topics. Virginia's and Gena's travel and registration were supported by a grant from The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust. Connie collaborated with Sally Isaacson of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and Patsy Benveniste from the Chicago Botanic Garden on the presentation *Get Out of Your Box: Inspiring Partnerships in Your Community*.



Maintenance practices at Lotusland are tailored to provide optimum plant health without the use of harmful chemicals.



The aloe garden contains over 180 kinds of aloes. Only one component of the plant collection, aloes comprise just a portion of the astounding diversity of plants at Lotusland.



The unique beauty of Lotusland is evident in both the design of its gardens and the vibrant health of the plants. For example, architectural elements such as this fountain and statuary are framed by lush greenery.

New to the Collections

IT WAS FIVE YEARS AGO that Madame Walska's old flower garden began receiving some well-deserved attention. Plant Health Care Manager John Lafleur sowed several of the brick-edged beds with a "Good Bugs Mix" of seeds. The species of flowers in this mix were chosen to provide nectar and pollen for an array of beneficial insects. It was hoped that these good bugs would thrive in the



VIRGINIA HAYES

The blue foliage of *Leymus arenarius* 'Glaucua' (front) contrasts wonderfully with the bronze-red leaves and stems of *Pennisetum* 'Rubrum'. In the background is the original clump of *Puya alpestris*.

new area and then move out into the surrounding areas of the garden. Shortly after this first planting, several volunteers, chief among them Lynn Kirby, took over the project. Working from a list of possible plants that I had compiled, Lynn slowly started designing and planting the remaining beds with beautiful and useful insect-attracting plants. Lynn added a number of species to attract and feed butterflies as well, and the area became known as the butterfly garden to scores of interested fourth graders.

This year the final bed was renovated and planted. A spiny thicket of *Puya alpestris* was all that remained in the center of the area. Since this bed was one of the sunniest and warmest, we decided to do something a little different. Most of the new plants here are fairly drought tolerant and a large number of them are grasses. The intent to attract and provide habitat for beneficial insects remained the same. There is one, silver tansy (*Tanacetum niveum*) from the daisy family, whose many florets provide pollen to feeding insects. A cultivar of our California native monkey flower, *Mimulus* 'Pumpkin,' lures nectar-feeding insects (and the occasional hummingbird) to stop for a sip. The tiny white flowers of *Cotoneaster dammeri* 'Lowfast' also provide pollen and eventually form

small berries, another source of nutrition for the insect and avian fauna.

Grasses, though, offer a different sort of benefit. Their role in the ecosystem (in terms of insects, anyway) is as a refuge. Many types of insects retire to the cover of long grass either for the night or the dormant season. Ladybugs use them to over-winter and may lay their eggs there, too. Praying mantids prefer to attach their egg masses to grass stems. Lacewings (whose larvae are an aphid's worst nightmare) also find safe haven in grassy areas. A number of beetles call these regions home as well, among them the voracious ground beetles. Ground beetles consume a number of undesirable soil organisms including slug and snail eggs, cutworm larvae, and root maggots. Their cousins, the rove beetles, feed on aphids, mites, and immature flies. Our hope is that some of these predators will find our new additions to their liking.

The new plantings include blue oat grass (*Helictotrichon sempervirens*), blue Lyme grass (*Leymus arenarius* 'Glaucua'), pink muhly (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), two selections of fountain grass (*Pennisetum orientale* and *P. setaceum* 'Rubrum'), two cultivars of eulalia grass (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Morning Light' and 'Strictus') and the evergreen miscanthus (*M. transmorrissonensis*). —Virginia Hayes

Cactus Garden Receives Matching Gift from Castagnola Family

THE FIRST COMPLETELY new garden at Lotusland is nearly finished and will open to the public in February 2004. It was created to display the outstanding collection of more than 500 cacti donated by Merritt Dunlap, who shared a passion for cacti with his friend Ganna Walska. A strong design is key to creating a garden worthy of complementing the other Lotusland gardens. We are fortunate that the prominent landscape designer Eric Nagelmann agreed to not only

design the new cactus garden and guide its installation, but to do so without a fee, as his generous gift to Lotusland.

Moving the cacti and creating the new garden was a \$500,000 commitment. To avoid the loss of any of these irreplaceable specimens, the project began before full funding was secured. With a \$200,000 gift from Michael Towbes and grants totaling \$70,000 from the Wallis Foundation, fundraising for the project is off to a

great start. We are very grateful to have also received a \$35,000 matching grant from the GVRG Castagnola Family Foundation.

We need \$35,000 in new donations to complete the matching grant. If you would like to make a donation or have questions, please call Anne Dewey, Director of Development, 969-3767, extension 105. We would be happy to arrange a tour of the Cactus Garden for anyone interested in making a matching gift.

Lotusland's Best Management Practices: Ants

OF CALIFORNIA'S MORE THAN 200 species of ants, only a few are serious pests. The ant most often encountered in our homes and gardens is the non-native Argentine ant. Like other social insects—such as honey bees, termites, and some wasps—individual ants cannot survive alone but must live in colonies. Ants are unique as they can move their entire colony to a more favorable location, when necessary. The lifespan of a colony can extend over several years and ants have few natural enemies.

Many species of ants are beneficial and should not be indiscriminately destroyed. They feed on organic substances and living insect pests and are one of nature's most efficient ways of handling insects and smaller animals that die. Rather than rushing out to get a spray can of poison, consider some of the following suggestions:

- Store food properly and be vigilant about keeping countertops free of food waste and garbage cans well sealed.
- Ants will not cross barriers made from sticky materials. Several commercially available materials such as "Tanglefoot" are effective in the home as well as the garden.

- Fill in cracks by using a good silicon caulk to block the point where ants enter the house.
- Detergent barriers work better than water barriers because ants can float on water. You can also mop up ants with a soapy sponge. A dish of pet food can be protected from ants by placing it in a pie pan filled with soapy water.
- Flooding can drive ants from flowerpots.
- Dusts such as diatomaceous earth can be blown into cracks.
- Combining pyrethrum with a commercial preparation of silica aerogel is an effective low-toxicity treatment.



- Use insecticide soap drench, either alone or with pyrethrum, to move nests away from buildings.
- Insect growth regulators do not kill the ant but when taken into the nest, inhibit the maturation of the juvenile. Over time the nest declines and disappears.
- Boric acid baits are effective. In the proper concentration, they do not kill the worker ants outright. Instead the ants carry the poison back to the nest and eventually the entire nest is eradicated. Boric acid is used in several commercial products, and you can make your own liquid bait with the following formula:

Mix one level teaspoon of boric acid in 2.5 fluid ounces of corn syrup or honey; heat until boric acid completely dissolves; cool; dilute bait with an equal volume of water. Using an eyedropper, place in areas where ants feed or put in small lids in areas accessible to ants. It is important to keep the bait available to ants for two weeks.

Be sure to read all label information before using any of the materials described above and keep bait mixtures out of the reach of children.

—Mike Iven

Michael Towbes' Generous Gift for Cactus Garden Announced at Merritt Dunlap Birthday Celebration

MERRITT DUNLAP, who so generously donated his magnificent cactus collection to Lotusland, was invited to preview the newly installed Cactus Garden and to celebrate his 97th birthday with a few close friends and Lotusland staff and trustees on August 21.

This joyous occasion was used to announce both Michael Towbes' wonderful gift of \$200,000 to begin the fundraising for the Cactus Garden and the GVRG Castagnola Family Foundation's \$35,000 matching grant.

Board member Michael Towbes, who donated \$200,000 for the installation of the Cactus Garden, celebrated with Merritt Dunlap, seated, Executive Director Steven Timbrook and landscape designer Eric Nagelmann.



Horticultural Happenings

100 GALLON COMPOST TEA BREWER

OUR NEW 100-GALLON compost tea brewer has greatly improved Lotusland's plant and soil health care program, as we are now able to brew enough tea to satisfy scheduled applications at the recommended rates.



The System 100 from Growing Solutions Inc. uses fine bubble diffusion technology to aerate the solution and provide a tea with a high organism concentration and diversity within 24 hours.

Compost tea applications are an integral part of Lotusland's sustainable horticulture program. When applied to the soil, nutrients in the tea are used by plants and microorganisms in the soil, and when applied to foliage, beneficial microorganisms in the tea help suppress disease pathogens and promote nutrient availability.

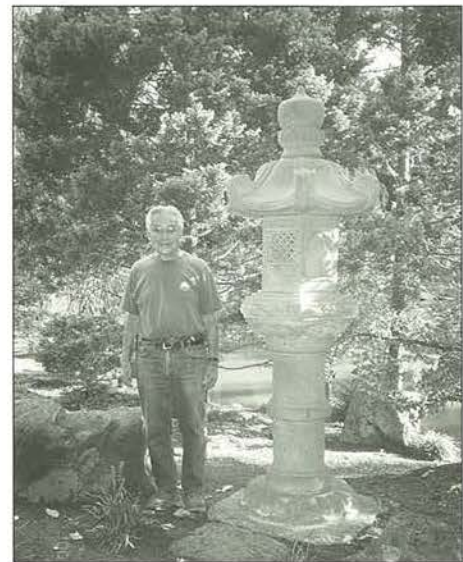
FUJII FAMILY DONATES LANTERN

THE DETERIORATION OF TWO sandstone lanterns in the Japanese garden prompted a generous donation of a new granite stone lantern from the Fujii family. It is called a Kasuga lantern and is fashioned after ancient lanterns found in Shinto shrines in Japan. The lantern was set in place, leveled, and stabilized by Danny Panizzon of Da Ros Masonry.

Frank Fujii is about to complete 31 years of employment at Lotusland. He was 55 years old when he began working with Ozzie Da Ros and Ganna Walska to design and install Lotusland's Japanese garden. Frank continues to maintain the Japanese

garden and to pass on knowledge and special pruning skills to co-workers and apprentices.

Frank emphasized that the lantern is from the entire Fujii family, saying, "Lotusland has done so much for us, we thought we'd do something for Lotusland." —Mike Iven



Frank Fujii is pictured in the Japanese garden with the pedestal-style Kasuga lantern that the Fujii family recently donated to Lotusland.

Japanese Garden Aesthetic Pruning Workshop

WITH GREG KITAJIMA, LOTUSLAND JAPANESE GARDEN SPECIALIST

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 • 2:00 TO 4:30 PM

PLEASE JOIN US TO LEARN how aesthetic pruning techniques (sometimes referred to as *niwaki*) are applied to create beautiful pieces of living sculpture in Lotusland's Japanese



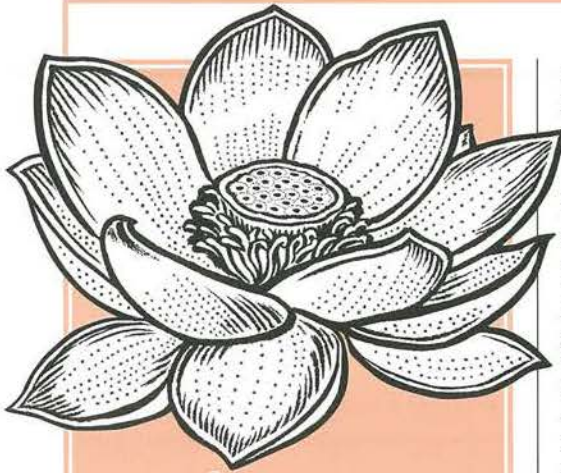
Greg Kitajima will demonstrate aesthetic pruning techniques in the Japanese garden.

garden. An introductory presentation in the sunken drawing room will be followed by a demonstration in the Japanese garden. This hands-on workshop, led by Greg Kitajima, will focus on pines. Greg is an apprentice of master gardener Frank Fujii, who helped design the Japanese garden for Madame Walska between 1968 and 1974.

The techniques used in pruning sculpted pines are unique to these trees and require an understanding of what is termed "pine theory." This class is intended as a basic overview of pine theory and will cover some of the essential techniques employed

in its practice. Pine theory is extremely complicated and requires years of observation to thoroughly understand the concepts involved. Without these pruning techniques applied to the pines, many of which are 40 to more than 60 years old, the trees could reach heights of 100 feet. These trees are not dwarf or miniaturized species, as is sometimes assumed.

Enrollment for this workshop is limited and advance reservations are required. The fee is \$25 for members; \$30 for nonmembers. Use the coupon on page 15 to register. If you have questions, please call (805) 969-3767, extension 107. —Connie Buxton



The LOTUS SOCIETY

VIRGINIA CASTAGNOLA-HUNTER

ALTHOUGH VIRGINIA CASTAGNOLA HUNTER's association with the Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation goes back to 1994 when she became a member of *Friends of Lotusland*, her first experience of Lotusland came much earlier.

When Ginnie was a young girl growing up in Santa Barbara, one of her friends was Madame Walska's niece, Hania, who lived on the estate. While she was in the garden with Hania during one visit, Ginnie could see Madame Walska watching them from an upstairs window; however, she never actually met Madame. Their friendship



Virginia Castagnola-Hunter

NELL CAMPBELL

continues to this day, and Hania is Godmother to one of Ginnie's daughters, Francesca.

When I talked with Ginnie at her home recently, I learned things that led me to speculate that, had they been contemporaries, she and Madame Walska would have had much in common. Ginnie's home, El Eliseo, was designed by Reginald Johnson about the same time he designed the main house at what was to become Lotusland. Both Madame and Ginnie share a deep affinity for the lotus, not only as a strikingly beautiful water plant but also as a spiritual symbol of regeneration and tranquility. Love of music would have been another interest drawing them together.

Madame Walska was a cosmopolitan lady, yet she certainly couldn't begin to compare with Ginnie Hunter in her love of travel and exotic cultures. Ginnie spends at least as much time traveling as she does at home, and her background in history, political science and international relations certainly makes her an informed traveler. A map of the world on the wall of her upstairs hallway has colored pins marking the 272 countries she has visited to date, many of them more than once. An accomplished photographer, Ginnie documents her travels with wonderful albums that demonstrate her fine eye for color, composition and images with a strong sense of place.

Now that her five children are raised, when she is home in Santa Barbara Ginnie immerses herself in cultural and philanthropic activities. She has served on the boards of several organizations including Laguna Blanca School, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, the Santa Barbara Symphony and the Santa Barbara Civic Light Opera. She has also served her community through support of the Music Academy of the West, the Department of Religious Studies and Arts and Lectures at UC Santa Barbara and, of course, Lotusland, among many others.

The lotus is the symbol of her home, El Eliseo, where she has lived for 31 years. Lotuses are cast into doorbell plates, they form the frieze around her library ceiling and are found in innumerable other features of her estate, both indoors and out. She feels this is one of her bonds with Lotusland. Her love of the lotus as a symbol of regeneration was one of the reasons Ginnie wanted to support Lotusland's future through *The Lotus Society*. She knows that being able to continue her support in perpetuity with an endowment gift will help assure that Lotusland is always here for the enjoyment of the people of Santa Barbara and the citizens of the world she has come to know through her travels.

—Steven Timbrook

NEW MEMBERS

THANK YOU to the following new members for their generous support.

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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.

To learn more about *The Lotus Society*, call Anne Dewey, Lotusland's Director of Development, at (805) 969-3767, extension 105.

Lotusfest

LOTUSFEST WAS A WONDERFUL feast for the senses. Food for the body and delights for the spirit were provided by the beauty of Ikebana (the art of Japanese flower arranging) demonstrations, the dynamic drumming of Togen Daiko, great jazz from The Undecided Trio and a delicious lunch from Fresco.

Santa Barbara's premium vintners supplied truly exceptional wines for wine tasting. Thank you to: The Brander Vineyard, Carina Cellars, Consilience, Longoria Wines, Melville, Rancho Sisquoc Winery, Sanford Winery & Vineyards, Santa Barbara Winery, Whitcraft Winery, and Wild Horse Winery & Vineyard.

What a delightful day!

—Connie Buxton



Peter Mendel, performing with The Undecided Trio, kept the jazz cool during the hot afternoon.



Barbara Smith from Wild Horse Winery & Vineyard included a sunny smile with each glass of superb wine.

PHOTOS BY NELL CAMPBELL



Fresco provided a rustic, yet elegant, Italian banquet.



The lotuses were showing off their most captivating blossoms.



Guests were invited to try their hand at drumming after the performance by Togen Daiko.



Members of Ikenobo Ikebana crafted incredibly beautiful flower arrangements, including an especially stunning lotus creation (inset).

LOTUSLAND THANKS U.S. TRUST COMPANY FOR ITS SPONSORSHIP OF *Alice in Lotusland*

THE GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP of U.S. Trust Company helped make our fundraiser, *Alice in Lotusland*, a fabulous success. We were delighted to have John & Barbara DeGroot, Joe & Peggy Gallagher, Andy & Jo Gifford, Susan Hochberg, Brian & Joanne Rapp, Greg & Denise Sanford, and Pete & Coo Umoff represent U.S. Trust at the July 27 event.

Event committee members Ella Brittingham, Merryl Brown, Anne Dewey, Tiffany Doré, Robert Emmons, Robin Fell, Kisa Heyer, Karen Kolb, Bambi Leonard, Jill Levinson, Lori Mikles, Mary Morouse, Valerie Rice, Laura Shelburne, Cynthia Spivey and Lisa Wolf—along with the amazing creativity of Tamara Feller and I.D.O. Events—produced an enchanting, fun-filled event.

The magic began when guests entered the party through the very small keyhole of a very large gold door. A purple caterpillar handing out gifts, Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee, the Cheshire Cat floating on a raft, Singing Flowers, and Playing Cards painting the roses red enchanted guests along the way. The Queen and King of Hearts invited guests to play Queen's Croquet and the theatre garden was the setting for a raucous tea party with the Mad Hatter and the March Hare. The

table was covered with charmingly creative teapots made by students in Danyel Dean's Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) pottery class and overflowed with gorgeous and silly cakes created by the SBCC Culinary Department, with special thanks to Stephanie Hersh. Throughout the event a lovely Alice ran up and down the paths looking for the White Rabbit who was busy imploring guests not to be late.

Guests were seated on the main lawn at beautifully decorated tables with topiary centerpieces depicting cats, teapots, rose bushes and rabbits created by Megan Yager Floral Design.

Lotusland's Executive Director, Steven Timbrook, welcomed guests and thanked the many local students who played the various characters with talent and enthusiasm. Special thanks goes to Radu Azdril, director of Showstoppers, who coordinated the performances, to Marian Azdril who ensured that the costumes were perfect, and to Eliane Alexandre International and her staff who did hair and makeup. Proceeds from *Alice in Lotusland* support our Educational Outreach Program to Santa Barbara fourth graders.

The Four Seasons Biltmore presented a fabulous dinner, but the event was so upside down that dessert was



Lotusland trustees Barbara Siemon (left) and Kisa Heyer greeted guests in front of the new Wall of Honor.

served first! A 1998 M. Brown Barossa Valley Shiraz, donated by Valerie and A.J. Rice and Kalyra Winery, and a 2000 Foxen Winery Chardonnay complemented the meal perfectly.

Following dinner, "backwards" auctioneers Bob Emmons, President of Lotusland's Board of Trustees, and Trustee Mason Farrell conducted a lively auction for six items.

- A GEM-Global Electric Motorcar, donated by Trustee Sandra Nicholson and her husband William Nicholson.

- Mexican Valley With Approaching Storm, a beautiful 1907 oil painting by Lockwood de Forest given by an anonymous donor.

- Two Pairs of Exact Replicas of Lotusland's Grotesques that are in the



Tiffany & Paul Doré and Ellen & David Gildea enjoy the Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Tiffany is an event committee member.



This lively group arrived ready to get into the spirit of a wonderland adventure with Alice and her friends.



Lord and Lady Ridley-Tree will soon be seen zipping around Montecito in the electric car they purchased during the auction.



Event committee member Mary Morouse and her husband Jim enjoyed the festivities.

Theatre Garden. Dennis & Leen & Antique Formations donated their services to create them.

- *A Dinner For Ten at Lotusland in the Garden of Your Choice* went to two sets of lucky bidders. The **Four Seasons Biltmore** donated one of the dinners.

- *Summer Light at Lotusland*, a pastel created especially for this event and donated by the plein air artist **Glenna Hartmann**. **Carleton-Kirkegaard Framing** donated the beautiful frame

- *A Mad Hatter's Cocktail Party* where many of the same characters will come to back to entertain.

As guests left the magic of *Alice In Lotusland*, Alice said goodbye at the giant door and the White Rabbit left the rabbit hole long enough to hand out cookies that said "eat me"—thanks to **Jeannine's Bakery**. The Playing

Cards waved goodbye as guests departed the party and wondered where in the world they had been.

Lotusland wishes to thank the following sponsors, whose support ensured the success of our major fundraising event. —Anne Dewey

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Palmer Jackson outbid the competition to buy Glenna Hartmann's beautiful pastel, *Summer Light at Lotusland*.



The grotesques appear to be enjoying the banter of auctioneers Bob Emmons (left), board president, and board member Mason Farrell.



Guest Ivan Reitman and Patron Table Hosts Carla and Stephen Hahn took a moment to pose for a picture on the main lawn.



Alice cannot believe that Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee are telling her that she just missed the White Rabbit.

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Bambi & Chris Leonard
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Patty MacFarlane
Lizzie & Brent Peus
Norman Waitt, Jr.
Anonymous



Pictured are the delightful, talented cast of local students who played the characters for Alice in Lotusland with great wit and enthusiasm.



A.J. Rice and his wife Valerie, who served on the event committee, provided the delicious Shiraz from Kalyra Winery.

Gena Wirth

SUSTAINABLE PLANT HEALTH CARE SUMMER INTERN



CONNIE BUXTON

Gena Wirth

FOR TEN WEEKS each summer, an intern lives in the Pavilion and works and learns alongside Lotusland's grounds maintenance staff. This year a generous grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust provided an opportunity to offer a more focused internship concentrating on Lotusland's award-winning program of sustainable methods of plant health care. Gena Wirth, this summer's Sustainable Plant Health Care intern, was selected from an impressive applicant pool of college students from across the country. Her enthusiastic "can-do" spirit and desire to learn made her a true asset to the garden. Gena's own thoughts on her Lotusland experience follow.

—Connie Buxton

ALL MY LIFE I have lived in Wilmington, Delaware. I also attend the University of Delaware, so when I was looking for an internship for the summer, I decided it would be really interesting to work someplace completely different and far away from home. I learned about the Sustainable Plant Health Care internship at Lotusland through the American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA)

Internship Directory, thought it sounded challenging but fun, and applied. I was also interested in Lotusland's program because it was centered on sustainability. I had never before worked at a garden that strived so hard to create and maintain an astonishing landscape while being ecologically sound. The whole concept of sustainable design and management intrigued me, so when I was accepted for the position, I was very excited.

After driving across the country with my mom, I arrived in California at the end of May. Even with June gloom, I was completely blown away by the California landscape. The ocean, the mountains, the desert; everything was just so beautiful! Lotusland especially amazed me. Living on the east coast, I had never heard of most of these plants, much less seen them in person. It was also very encouraging to see such extensive and diverse collections of unusual plants being managed by sustainable practices.

Being the sustainable plant health care intern at Lotusland has introduced me to many different concepts and practices. I've been working with John Lafleur, the Plant Health Care Manager, who's given me an excellent introduction to sustainability. He really made an effort to educate me about both the theory and principles of sustainable management, as well as the everyday practices that make the program work. I've done a lot of interesting things this summer with the sustainability program—working with compost tea, soil testing, creating garden data sheets, monitoring, etc. I also really enjoyed the Fridays when I was able to rotate around and work with different gardeners in the separate gardens.

Lotusland really tried hard and succeeded at making this internship



MIKE IVEN

Gena with her mentor, John Lafleur, Lotusland's Plant Health Care Manager.

an educational work experience. They sent me on many great field trips—to Boston for the AABGA conference, the Getty Museum, the International Center for Earth Concerns in Ojai, and the University of California at Santa Barbara, so I would have a greater understanding of horticulture outside of Lotusland. Also, on my own, I've had a great time exploring around California and the west coast. I've visited friends in Mendocino and Las Vegas, and I've been to San Simeon, Pinnacles, Los Angeles, and the Huntington.

So now that it's time for me to go back to Delaware and the university, I'm very sorry to leave. I've had a completely amazing time working at Lotusland—not only have I learned about sustainable management and lived in a beautiful garden all summer, but I've met great people and worked with a wonderful staff. It has definitely been an experience I will never forget.

—Gena Wirth

Volunteer Profile: Dennis Whelan

WHEN ASKED WHAT HE LIKES best about Lotusland, Dennis replies that it is "the pink wall." He says that he always gets a special charge when he sees it because he knows that inside he "will experience something new and meet someone interesting."

Dennis describes his reaction to his first visit to Lotusland as "truly visceral." He had never experienced landscape design that was "so eccentric and personal and so reflected the owner." At that moment he vowed to some day arrange his schedule to include time for Lotusland's docent-training program, and some ten years later he joined the 1999 docent training class. He has been giving tours to scores of fortunate visitors ever since.

Dennis says watching a less than eager visitor, who is being dragged to yet another garden tour by a friend or spouse, being ultimately drawn into the magic of Lotusland is one of his favorite tour experiences. He sees the garden itself as having the power to persuade and cajole the most disinterested visitor and sees the role of the docent as "allowing the garden to speak softly in between the words from the guide."

Dennis earned an undergraduate degree from UC Santa Barbara in painting and sculpture and a Master's Degree from UCLA in architecture.



NANCY WOOD

Visitors to the garden are treated to an unforgettable botanical experience with Lotusland docent Dennis Whelan.

In his current position as a campus planner at UC Santa Barbara, he is involved with the building and landscape design of the campus.

In addition to giving his time and talent to Lotusland, Dennis currently serves as Rowing Club advisor for the UC Santa Barbara Crew Team and is very involved with the rowing community. He trains and competes at Masters level in regattas around the world, including the World Masters Games in Melbourne,

Australia, where he won a gold medal in the Men's Quadruple Sculls last October. Dennis is a member of the Society of Architectural Historians and recently hosted a tour of Lotusland for several of its members, some of whom traveled from as far as Peru.

We are so pleased to have Dennis as a volunteer docent and are very grateful for his dedication and continued passion for Lotusland.

—Debbie Hild

Lotusland Fall Docent Training

THERE'S STILL TIME TO SIGN UP for fall docent training, which begins on Monday, September 15.
(It is still possible to join this class after the first meeting.)

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the history and horticulture of Lotusland, and docents really love interpreting the garden to visitors from around the world.

For more information about becoming a docent, please call our Volunteer Coordinator, Debbie Hild, at (805) 969-3767, extension 116 or e-mail dhild@lotusland.org.

Kitchen Renovation

THE FIRST PART of the renovation of Lotusland's main house, the kitchen remodel, was completed in July. Grants from the Weiss Foundation and the Christine and Robert Emmons Foundation, combined with the generosity of the many local contractors and businesses that donated all or part of their services, made this long-awaited project possible.

Trustee Barbara Siemon worked tirelessly for months coordinating the endless details of this challenging venture. The finished product is lovely to look at and a pleasure to be in, and the staff members, volunteers, and caterers who use the area are delighted with the newly streamlined, clean space and updated appliances. Without Barbara's tenacity and good humor, this project could not have happened.

We are very grateful to Giffin & Crane General Contractors who so expertly directed the project, to Bruce Gregga for his excellent design ser-

vices and to the following contractors and businesses for their proficiency and generosity:

Botanik
Capitol Hardware
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Fancy Floors
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Kimzey Painting & Decorating
Kummer & Adams
Lilliput Designs
Ronchietto Restoration
Santa Barbara Glass
Santa Barbara Lights
Santa Barbara Plumbing
Santa Barbara Stone
Warwick Electric Co.

And thank you too to Karen and Harry Kolb, Sandra Nicholson and Nancy and Kent Wood for donating new kitchen supplies.



Trustee Barbara Siemon and Geoff Crane of Giffin & Crane General Contractors celebrate the completion of the beautiful Lotusland kitchen renovation.

VIRGINIA HAYES

Gardens and Opera in Santa Fe

LOTUSLAND MEMBERS spent five wonderful days in Santa Fe in August visiting 11 intriguing private gardens and enjoying the Santa Fe Opera Company production of Mozart's *Così fan Tutti*. Although they often shared some of the same plants, each garden was distinctive. In many,

sculpture or found objects such as carved doors and gates reflected the owners' artistic interests.

Of course, no visit to Santa Fe would be complete without sampling the innovative cuisine, a fusion of regional and continental styles, for which the city is renowned. From the

welcome dinner at The Compound to dinner at Santacafé, a memorable mid-afternoon feast at Geronimo, and a farewell luncheon in artist Ford Ruthling's exuberant garden, our group fortified themselves for the daily garden walks and evening musical performances. —Steven Timbrook



Tour participants enjoyed perfect weather as they arrived at the home of Dorothy and Ralph Black. Their garden features drought-tolerant plants, as do many of the 11 charming private gardens included on the tour.



Executive Director Steven Timbrook and his wife Jan accompanied the group. They are shown here with Mary Gavin, in front of her home high in the hills above Santa Fe, and tour participant Marcia Constance.

STEVEN TIMBROOK

KAREN ZIEGLER-POPP

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We Welcome New Members Who Joined in May, June, and July 2003

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Japanese Garden Aesthetic Pruning Workshop

With GREG KITAJIMA, LOTUSLAND
JAPANESE GARDEN SPECIALIST

November 15, 2003
2:00 TO 4:30 PM

\$25/members • \$30/nonmembers

Number of
people attending _____

Number of cars _____

Total \$ _____

Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐ Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

Member name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

*One member pass may be used as partial payment for any event.
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: Visitor Services, 695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

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May, June, and July 2003

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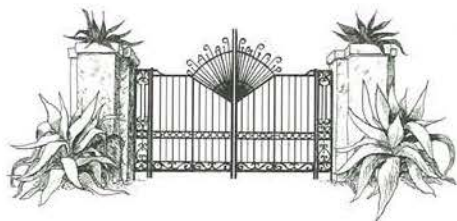
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2003 Member Events

Saturday, November 15

*Japanese Garden Aesthetic
Pruning Workshop
with Greg Kitajima, Lotusland
Japanese Garden Specialist*
2:00–4:30 PM

Please see details on page 5
and use coupon on page 15
to register.

November 15

Garden is closed to regular tours
until February 18, 2004.

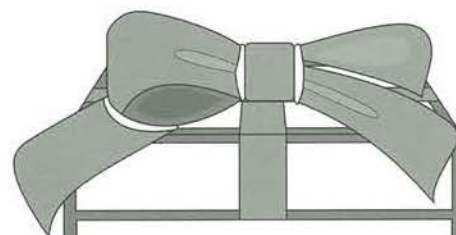
Family Tours

Family tours for all ages are offered
every Thursday at 10:00 AM and
1:30 PM and the second Saturday of
each month at 10 AM and 1:30 PM
(except between November 15
and February 18). 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.

Holiday Shopping and Self-Guided Tours

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 6
1:30 TO 4:30 PM**

Members \$15 or
free admission pass.
Reservations are required
and may be made
by calling Visitor Services
at (805) 969-9990,
9 AM–NOON, M–F.



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Thank a client
or celebrate
a special occasion
by giving a
Friend of Lotusland
membership to a
business associate,
friend or family member.

For details, please call
(805) 969-3767
and speak with either
Marilyn Foreman
at extension 115
or Bambi Leonard
at extension 120.