



Madame Walska: Cactus Collector (1941-1953)

By SHARON CRAWFORD

THE DUNLAP CACTUS COLLECTION could be considered Madame Walska's final cactus acquisition. Although the plants have only recently come to Lotusland, Merritt Dunlap had offered them to Madame Walska 18 years before she died. In a letter dated July 29, 1966, he stated that although he did not expect to die soon, "I want to make some provision [in his will] for keeping the garden more or less intact." He had been advised by Charles Glass that scientific botanical gardens would not be interested in his collection, since he could not authenticate the source of each plant, so at Glass's suggestion, he offered it to her "as a bequest." (In fact, Mr. Dunlap's collection has far better documentation of sources than most of the plants growing at Lotusland at the time the Foundation took over operations in 1984.)

Mr. Dunlap was acquainted with Madame Walska, but never had been to Lotusland. Volunteering to come talk with her in person, he said, "I have always wanted to see your garden anyway, but have never taken time." In her response, Madame Walska called his letter the "strangest" she had ever received. Perhaps that was because she was not sure what the word "bequest" meant. She wrote, "As a matter of fact I did not understand the exact meaning of it but somehow I felt happy about it...somehow deeply grateful for it and with no reason at all humbly considered it as a blessing." A week

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Members of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc., with Madame Ganna Walska (SECOND FROM LEFT) on July 13, 1953. LEFT TO RIGHT: Ralph Stevens, designer of Mme. Walska's gardens; Howard E. Gates, Corona, national chairman of the society; Miss Pearl Chase; Jean Delacour, director of the Los Angeles County Museum; Charles Redler, Los Angeles; and Ladislaus Cutax, national vice chairman and a staff member of the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

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later she sent a telegram giving him the times for the Cactus and Succulent Society and Palm Society tours, both scheduled in August, concluding "I would love to see you again."

As Mr. Dunlap's long-awaited cactus collection is about to become Lotusland's newest cactus garden, it is interesting to explore the inception of Madame Walska's cactus collecting. Lotusland's archives contain garden records from the outset. Madame Walska's personal scrapbooks provide a glimpse into her various interests, and some of her sources of informa-



LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

This view of the house and cacti is similar to a photo published in the Cactus and Succulent Journal in 1952. The accompanying article described Lotusland as "one of the outstanding cactus gardens of the West."

tion and inspiration for projects. At least five scrapbooks are devoted to cactus; one is devoted to their blossoms, another to crested cactus, and one includes articles about the cactus at Huntington Gardens, which some have said were Walska's model for her own driveway plantings.

We know from nursery bills that Madame Walska began collecting cactus soon after she purchased Lotusland in June 1941. Unfamiliar with California's gardening conditions, but aware that the neglected grounds needed help, she immediately sought the services of Santa Barbara's most renowned landscape architect, Lockwood de Forest, who supervised a complete garden renovation.

De Forest relied on the Gillum Tree Service Company for labor and on Kallman's Garden Nursery for most plants. Cacti and succulents came from horticulturist E.O. Orpet, who had long experimented with and advocated the use of succulents. Mr. Orpet also obtained large cacti from several non-professional local growers. The first bill for cactus from Orpet is dated August 22, 1941. It includes three golden barrel cactus (*Echinocactus grusonii*), "a group of *Cereus marginatus*," plus seven single

Cereus of several species, a pair of large *Agaves*, and a "clump of *Agave francisiana*" (sic). These plants were designated for the entrance court.

On August 25, apparently feeling that he was no longer needed, de Forest wrote a letter stating: "Future work can be more economically handled in my opinion by gardeners of your own." He went on to say, "I am most anxious to hear your opinion of the cactus at the front door. It seems to me that more *Cereus* south of the front door would look really well." A year later, he gave her full credit for the idea, claiming, "I never would have thought of using cactus at the front door or many of the other plantings you suggested. They are very handsome and I congratulate you."

But Madame Walska was not prepared at that time to manage a crew of gardeners, and de Forest was persuaded to return. The first *Euphorbia* were purchased in September for a section de Forest called a "Garden of Different Cactus." In October a group of large cactus was moved from the San Marcos Trout Club. The work of moving and replanting cactus already on the property

continued until November, when Madame Walska departed to New York for the opera season.

The work resumed in January 1942 with *Euphorbia* ordered from Armstrong Nursery. More significantly, de Forest had found another local source for mature cactus and succulents: the John D. Wright estate. It is likely that the Wrights had asked de Forest's advice about their overgrown cactus garden. During May and June, ten truckloads of plants were transferred from the Wright estate. Most were for the entrance court, but four century plants (*Agave franzosinii*) went into the silver garden (now the blue garden).

By the end of May, Madame Walska was exhausted and ready to quit. In a letter to de Forest, she expressed concern about finances on her "limited budget," and she complained that the previous summer's work had taken "all my energy and nerve." Still, she expressed gratitude "for the beauty of the gardens, glorious thanks to your taste." After de Forest let her know that he was planning to join the Air Corps, the work was allowed to continue through September 1942, including the installation of 50 prickly pears at the entrance Gate and some "blue grey cactus" from Val Verde near the swimming pool (now the lotus pool).

In 1943 Madame Walska learned that Ralph Stevens, recently retired Santa Barbara Superintendent of Parks, had been born and raised on her property. When she asked for his help, Stevens was pleased to have the opportunity to further develop the garden that his father had begun, and he remained with her until 1955. His enduring projects included extending the driveway plantings, designing the wall and succulent plantings around the new swimming pool in 1947, the blue garden in 1948, and the succulent-filled floral clock in 1955.

After the war ended and gasoline was no longer rationed, Ganna was able to explore further afield for outstanding mature cactus. In 1948

she brought her devoted New York chauffeur to Lotusland for the summer. With a driver at her command, she visited nurseries from Los Angeles to San Diego, preferring to select specific plants rather than ordering from lists or photographs. In June 1948, F.G. Taylor of Temple City sent her a price list for the plants she recently had selected. Some of the plants were from his private collection and were the only specimens of their kind that he knew of; they were offered only on condition that he be allowed to collect their seeds from her garden. Ganna decided to forego his \$300 *Oreocereus celsianus*, but did buy a six-foot *Pilocereus polylophus* for \$150, and two other cacti at \$100 each.

Since 1943, Lotusland had been regularly scheduled on the annual summer Garden Tours of the Plans and Planting Committee, organized by Pearl Chase. On one of these tours, as reported in the *Santa Barbara News-Press*, Madame was quoted as saying, "There is nothing ugly in nature, but unimportant things in mass become more beautiful." This was the occasion on which Ralph Stevens made his much quoted remark: "It's typical of Mme. Walska's feeling—her sense of the theatrical and spectacular, rather than an intimate interest in plants themselves.... She has an artist's feeling—using plants instead of paints or stage settings."

But, just as in her singing career, the creative process was never easy for her. As an example, in the fall of 1948, Ganna left for New York earlier than usual, confiding in a letter that she had to get away from gardening or she would collapse. But she was pleased with what had been accomplished: "Garden is more beautiful than ever, did tremendous things this summer, two extraordinary rock gardens and thousand more of cactuses...and Mr. Stevens is very happy about it."

Madame Walska certainly enjoyed the admiration of all the visitors to her garden, but a subtle transition

began when her garden was featured in the March–April 1952 issue of the *Cactus and Succulent Journal*. The one-page article, with two photographs by Charles Redler, called hers "one of the outstanding cactus gardens of the West." This recognition led to a request from the Cactus and Succulent Society to tour Lotusland during their fifth biennial meeting in July 1953. More than 100 members of the society came, and they were impressed. In his report for the September–October issue of the *Journal*, Ladislaus Cutak called it "without a doubt, the finest private cactus garden in the United States." He especially admired the scope of the collection, the grafted and crested cactus and the masses of agave and golden barrel cactus, saying "You see, everything in Mme. Walska's garden is done on a big scale...everything in the garden is displayed in grandiose theatrical style." With this approbation, Madame Walska had entered a different realm—acknowledged not only as a serious cactus collector, but one with a dramatic flair for their display. [Note: more about cactus collecting in future issues.]

Sharon Crawford is the author of *Lotusland: The Garden and its Creators* and is currently donating her time to organize Lotusland's archives.



Madame Walska greets some of the more than 100 members of the Cactus and Succulent Society on their tour of Lotusland in 1953. Pearl Chase is in the background.



LOTUSLAND'S BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Roses

ASK TEN ROSARIANS how they care for their roses, and you will likely get ten different answers relating to pruning, fertilizing, spraying, scheduling, selecting and daily maintenance. Roses are one of the most popular garden plants, and there are probably as many ways to grow roses as there are people who grow them. Many people feel that the beauty, fragrance, symbolism, and other attributes of the rose justify the effort required in their care.

Like all other aspects of caring for Lotusland, rose care has undergone dramatic changes during the past few years. Our experience shows that the old tenet, "a healthy vigorous well-grown plant will experience the least pest and disease problems," remains true.

SELECTION

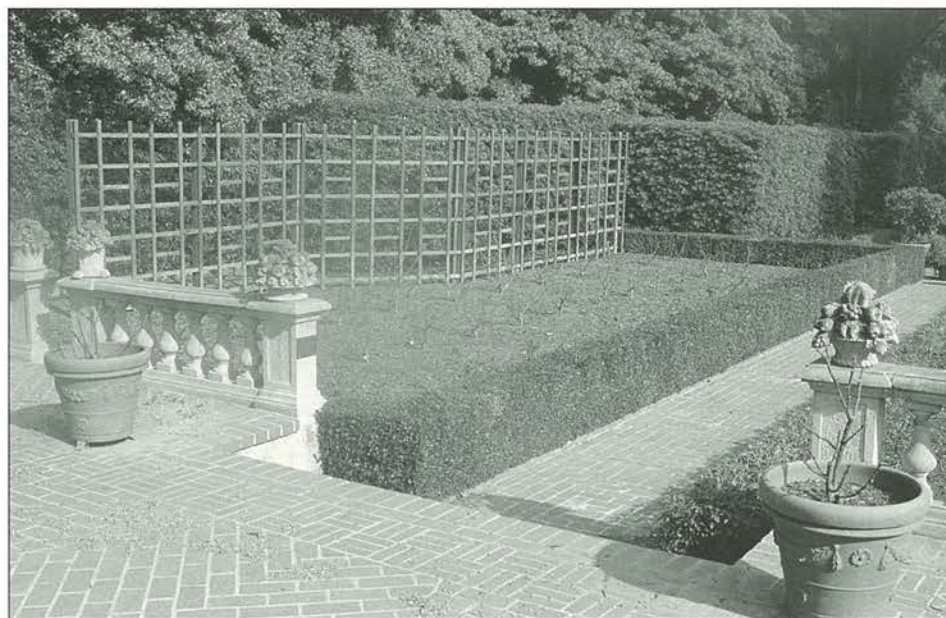
FRAGRANCE, COLOR AND GROWTH HABIT are common criteria for selecting roses for your garden. Just as important are choosing roses that have shown resistance to diseases experienced in our coastal area and acquiring roses from a reputable source. Visiting a rose garden, such as the Santa Barbara Rose Garden, to observe prospective choices can be very helpful.

LOCATION

A SUNNY LOCATION with good air circulation is a universal recommendation. Roses are somewhat tolerant of less than perfect locations, but performance will probably suffer.

PLANTING

THE QUALITY OF THE SOIL and good drainage are very important. At Lotusland, a subsurface drain system beneath the rose beds helps provide adequate drainage. Before planting, ample organic matter was included in the soil. The roots were inoculated with beneficial fungi (mycorrhizae), which form a symbiotic relationship



MIKE IVEN

Janet Rockwell, rosarian and Lotusland volunteer, worked with Lotusland staff in January to complete the annual pruning of the roses ('Trumpeter,' 'Amber Queen,' 'Betty Boop,' 'Dortmund,' 'Bill Warriner').

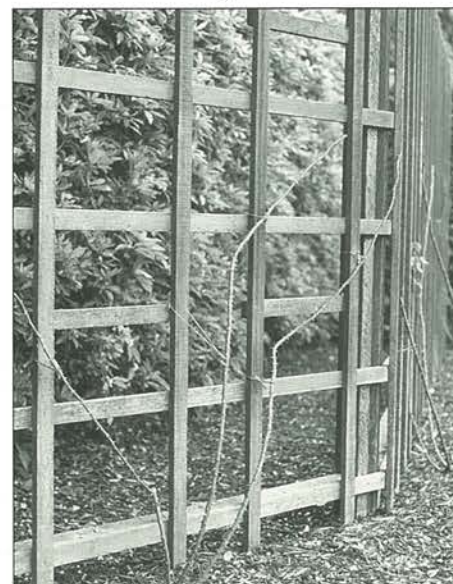
with the rose resulting in improved plant vigor and disease suppression. An organic fertilizer was also mixed in the backfill to provide for the nutritional needs of the new roses. It is very important when planting to have the root crown right at the soil surface.

IRRIGATION

CORRECT IRRIGATION begins at planting time. The root system of roses is very near the soil surface, so it can easily dry out. It only takes one Santa Ana wind to cause serious dehydration of the feeder roots. While roses may survive a desiccation of their roots, the stress of re-growing new roots will predispose them to disease and even insect problems. This is why we never cultivate the soil in the root area of the roses and one of the reasons why we maintain a layer of organic mulch in the garden. It is important to choose an irrigation system that provides a minimum wetting of the foliage and to irrigate early in the day so the leaves can dry before evening.

FERTILIZATION

SINCE LOTUSLAND's garden philosophy relies on maintaining the health of the microorganisms in the soil, we use only organic fertilizers. "Feed the soil and the soil will feed the plant" is the guiding principle for the sustainable management of gardens. The activity of these soil organisms transforms



MIKE IVEN

All the roses were planted in 2002. The climber 'Dortmund' will have clusters of large red single flowers with a white center.

the organic fertilizers and the organic matter (mulch) into nutrients the roses can use, when they need them. In addition to providing nutritional needs, this complex microorganism community increases the soil's disease suppression qualities. As caretakers of this rose biological system, we determine the system's health and diversity by our practices. Rosarians who use chemical fertilizers and pesticides and do not manage the soil organic matter content have a minimal soil organism community. They have to apply the nutrients in a chemical form and manage the problems of a weakened biological system by using chemical pesticides. Through proper management, we can grow healthy, attractive roses without the use of chemicals.

FOLIAR DISEASE MANAGEMENT

IF YOU LIVE NEAR THE COAST and have poor air circulation in your rose garden, foliar diseases will probably be a concern. The selection of disease-resistant varieties and proper care

and management practices will lessen these problems. Our foliar disease management has evolved through the years from a completely conventional approach using weekly applications of fungicides to one using routine applications of organic materials. We currently use special formulations of compost tea to manage foliar diseases. The compost tea provides a film of living beneficial organisms on the leaves of the roses that helps prevent fungal disease spores from infecting the plant. Removing infected leaves helps prevent re-infection of healthy foliage.

Non-foliar disease problems, such as stem canker, are managed by maintaining the overall health and vigor of the system. Proper pruning methods and sterilization of pruning tools are also important.

INSECT ECOLOGY

WISE MANAGEMENT of the insect ecology is essential in sustainable management. Insects such as aphids always precede the arrival of beneficial insects so that beneficial insects

will have a food source when they do arrive. When a well-intentioned gardener sprays insecticides and kills the aphids, he not only eliminates the food source for the beneficial insects, but destroys the natural checks and balances in the garden, thus making him the arbiter of all insect activity for the entire season. Anything sprayed on the leaves ends up on the soil surface, where it will harm the soil microorganisms. It is not the presence of plant-damaging insects that is the problem, but the unbalanced insect ecology created by the design of our gardens and our management practices.

A garden's ecosystem is incredibly complex, with all of the organisms having an effect on each other. The management activities undertaken will have an effect on all of the organisms in the system. Sustainable practices, which have long-term beneficial impacts that enhance your garden's ecosystem, are well worth the extra thought and planning that make them so effective.

—Mike Iven and John Lafleur

Spring Garden Tour With VIRGINIA HAYES SATURDAY, APRIL 26



Blue-flowered ground morning glory and succulent aeoniums surround two granite planters that accent this Hope Ranch garden.

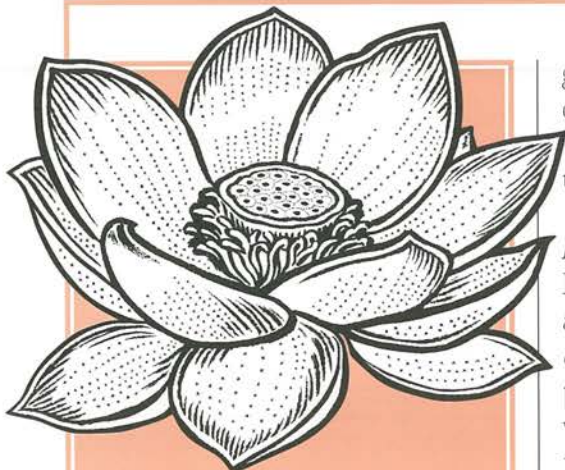
JOIN US FOR A DAY full of garden delights when Lotusland's Curator of the Living Collection, Virginia Hayes, once again leads the way to private local gardens from Montecito to Hope Ranch. Look behind the hedges and walls at what local gardeners and garden designers are creating.

A variety of styles of gardens (and maybe a house or two) will be opened just for our group. The tour departs from Lotusland at 9:15 AM (gate opens for check-in at 9:00 AM) and returns by 4:00 PM.

The cost of \$85 for members and \$95 for nonmembers includes admission, coach transportation, and a delicious lunch.



Another view of this garden shows flagstone steps that form a handsome transition from the entry level down to a sunny patio.



The LOTUS SOCIETY

HOLLY CRAMER: A WONDERFUL LOTUS SOCIETY RESOURCE

I HOPE YOU ENJOY reading about the people who make Lotusland the very special place it is as much as I enjoy getting to know more about them as I write their profiles for our newsletter. Last year, you met four Charter Members of *The Lotus Society* in these pages. For this issue, I am profiling a volunteer on *The Lotus Society* Committee to



Holly Cramer

COURTESY PHOTO

give you an excellent example of the depth of technical expertise that we are fortunate to be able to draw upon for our planned giving program.

Holly Cramer, a member of *The Lotus Society* Technical Resources Task Force, is a Certified Public Accountant and a tax manager at Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf. She specializes in tax planning, including assisting clients with their living trusts, lifetime gifting, trust funding and estate planning. She holds an Estate Planning Certificate from the California Society of CPAs and is a member of a number of professional societies, including the Santa Barbara Estate Planning Council. Holly has served as Treasurer of the Community Arts Music Association and has been a key member of *The Lotus Society* Committee since its inception in 2001.

Though I was aware of Holly's extensive training and experience in accounting and tax/estate planning, I was quite surprised to learn that in a former life she was a professional musician, with a Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio and a Master of Music degree from San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She plays both harpsichord and flute, but the harpsichord is her passion. Her talent brought her to the attention of world-renowned Dutch harpsichord and concert artist Gustav Leonhardt and gave her the coveted opportunity to study with him for a year in Holland. In addition to playing the harpsichord, Holly also enjoys the craftsmanship and artistry that go into the making of a harpsichord. She has two fine instruments in her Riviera home, each with its own distinctive musical personality.

I asked Holly if she had time for any other interests along with her profession and her music and was amazed at the range of her hobbies. "I get great pleasure from taking care of my rose garden and cymbidium

collection," Holly told me, "and I also belong to the Santa Barbara Rose Society, play golf, and enjoy riding dressage on Mardi Gras, my Trakehner warmblood horse."

When I told her how grateful Lotusland was for her efforts in our behalf, she explained, "I greatly admire Lotusland for its diligence toward the research and maintenance of rare and exotic plants." "Because *The Lotus Society* seeks to increase Lotusland's endowment, I feel my involvement helps assure that Lotusland will continue to excel long into the future."

—Steven Timbrook

NEW CHARTER MEMBERS

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

Anonymous
Jane Gail Copelan
Harry and Karen Kolb

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.

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*.

To learn more about *The Lotus Society*, please call Anne Dewey, Lotusland's Director of Development, at (805) 969-3767, extension 105. She can tell you about the many ways to ensure Lotusland's future through a planned gift and the benefits of joining *The Lotus Society*.



FUNDING COLLEGE EDUCATION WITH AN APPRECIATED ASSET

THE HIGH COST OF COLLEGE TUITION is of great concern these days. Often parents and students alike must take on debt to finance tuition, posing a lengthy financial burden for years. Usually the tuition is paid with after-tax dollars.

An **Education Unitrust** is an excellent alternative strategy to provide for the college education of your child, nephew, niece, or grandchild. The tax-wise Education Unitrust typically pays a fairly high amount to one or more students for four or five years, and then distributes the trust assets to a charity, such as Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation.

A major benefit of the Education Unitrust is that the income is taxed at the student's lower rate, resulting in minimal payment of income tax. Usually gift tax is bypassed, using the annual exclusion of \$11,000 (plus indexed increases) per student.

The trust is most advantageously funded with appreciated stock or real estate. The donor

receives immediate income tax savings (based on the value of what Lotusland will receive) and also bypasses capital gain when the trust sells and diversifies the portfolio.

EXAMPLE

Mary Jones wishes to assist her granddaughter Susie in her college education. Susie has a college savings fund, she works during the summer, and her parents will provide some assistance. However, Grandmother Mary would like to provide an additional amount to assist in Susie's education. She is a member of *Friends of Lotusland* and wants both to help Susie receive a college education and to benefit Lotusland.

SOLUTION

Mary owns stock she purchased some years ago for \$10,000 that is now worth \$50,000. She transfers the stock into an 8% Education Unitrust. The trust is able to sell tax-free and diversify into a portfolio of stocks and bonds. Mary is in the 36% tax bracket, and Susie in the 15% tax bracket.

THE RESULT

- Grandma Mary saves about \$13,000 in income taxes in year 1

due to a charitable deduction of approximately \$36,000.

- She bypasses approximately \$8,000 in capital gains tax that she would owe if she were to sell the stock (\$40,000 × 20%).
- She saves an additional \$3,300 in taxes over four years on income taxed at Susie's lower 15% tax bracket. Therefore Grandma Mary would have an estimated total tax savings overall of \$24,300.
- Susie is provided with \$13,600 (net amount after taxes) toward four years of college education, without Grandma Mary paying any gift taxes.
- After four years, Lotusland receives approximately \$50,000 from the trust.

THIS "WIN-WIN" alternative benefits you, your family, and Lotusland. For more information and a free personal illustration about how an Education Unitrust can help you and your family, please complete and return the form below. Or you may call Lotusland's Director of Development, Anne Dewey, at (805) 969-3767, extension 105.

—Sally Walker

☐ I would like to receive a free, personal illustration showing how an Education Unitrust can help me provide for the college education of my child/grandchild/niece/nephew.

His/her age is _____. I'd like to provide him/her with \$_____ a year for ____ years, starting ____/____/_____.

I plan to fund my Education Unitrust with \$_____ in ☐ cash ☐ appreciated securities ☐ real estate.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ BEST TIME TO CALL _____

Mail to:
Ganna Walska Lotusland
Attn: Anne Dewey, Director of Development
695 Ashley Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Members' Bottles & Cans & SATURDAY, APRIL

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

*CO-SPONSORED BY
The Robert & Christa
Thomas & Nancy Crawford, Jr.*

Activities



Michael Katz, Storyteller
performing in the theatre garden
11:30 TO NOON
AND 2:30 TO 3 PM



Creative crafts from the garden
for children and adults
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 reserve your family's space for one vehicle and to purchase barbecue lunch tickets. Please reserve early as we expect this event to fill quickly.

Bring your own picnic or pre-purchase a Santa Maria-style barbecue lunch that includes tri-tip, chicken, green salad, potato salad and chili beans, catered by Tinker's Summerland Catering Company.

Both adult-sized and child-sized barbecue lunches are available.

(It will not be possible to purchase barbecue tickets on the day of the event.)

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

Complimentary juice, soft drinks and water are available all day.

Complimentary ice cream cones at the ice cream booth NOON TO 2 PM.

Family Day Worms-Oh, My!

2 • 10 AM TO 4 PM

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

SORS:
*Emmons Foundation
Honor of Their Grandchildren*

I include:



Play Recycle Rally or Trash Toss
to win a prize
10 AM TO NOON
AND 2 TO 4 PM



Dress up in trashy costumes
and take home a free silly souvenir
photograph by Bob DeBris
10 AM TO NOON AND 2 TO 4 PM



Live music on the main lawn
featuring Pan-A-Cea,
Calypso steel drums/keyboard trio
NOON TO 2 PM

RESERVATION FORM

Due to the popularity of this event and to allow as many members as possible to attend, **we request only one vehicle per family.** If you have a special need for more than one vehicle, please call 969-3767, extension 120. Admission to Members' Family Day is free, but reservations are required. *No phone reservations, please.*

Please return this reservation form to: Ganna Walska Lotusland, Attn: Member Events, 695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108. *Your reservation confirmation and a map will be mailed to you upon receipt of your reservation.*

Tickets for the barbecue are available only by using this form. Your barbecue tickets will be mailed with your confirmation.

Member Name _____ Number of Adults _____

Address _____ Number of Children 12 and under _____

Bring your own picnic or order prepaid barbecue tickets here:

Payment Method: ☐ Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Adult portion \$14 × _____ (NO.) = Subtotal \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Exp. Date _____

Child portion \$7 × _____ (NO. AND UNDER) = Subtotal \$ _____

Card Number _____

Signature _____

Talking Plants

With **KETZEL LEVINE**, NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO'S GARDENING CORRESPONDENT
3:00 PM • SATURDAY, MAY 31



COURTESY PHOTO

Ketzel probably could be considered a "tree hugger," but this European beech seems to be hugging her.

PLEASE JOIN US for a wonderful afternoon of horticulture, humor, and provocative ideas when Ketzelt Levine brings an enlightened perspective to plants and gardening at this very special Lotusland event.

Whether interviewing lovable Ray Magliozzi, co-host of "Car Talk" on National Public Radio (NPR), about favorite plants in his garden, or reporting on Ricin, the deadly poison made from the castor bean plant (on the official list of potential bio-weapons), NPR's "Doyenne of Dirt" is in her element when she's talking plants. Ketzelt has amassed quite a bouquet of gardening gems over the past 10 years chatting about the plant world regularly on "Weekend Edition Saturday" and "Morning Edition."

Although officially far too young to be a "doyenne," the title (which Ketzelt considers "about as flattering as a mudpack") was first used by NPR's Scott Simon, and it stuck.

Ketzelt studied at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and thought her career would be in classical music, but by 1974 she had made radio her career choice. Ketzelt has reported on opera, dance, Wimbledon, and the London stage; she turned heads as the first American to broadcast sports on the BBC and, as NPR's sports director, she coaxed baseball legend Red Barber out of retirement and onto NPR's air. So how, you may ask, did Ketzelt end up in horticulture: "To maintain my sanity," she says. She

took to it like "a gunnera [a water-loving bog plant] in water" and has been immersed ever since.

A fervent fan of Lotusland, Ketzelt refers to it as "one of the most exotic public gardens in the country." Her fondness for the garden is such that she devoted one entire segment of a four-part series titled "Celebrity Gardeners" to Ganna Walska's creation of Lotusland. Lotusland Director Steven Timbrook and Curator of the Living Collection Virginia Hayes were interviewed for the series, which aired in the summer of 2000.

A wine and hors d'oeuvres reception will follow the presentation, and guests will have the opportunity to take a leisurely late afternoon stroll through the garden. Ketzelt will be available to autograph *Plant This!*, which will be offered at the special rate of \$16 including tax, a 30% discount from the usual price in our garden shop.

Space is limited, so register early (please use the coupon on page 15 to sign up). Admission fee is \$35 for members/\$40 for nonmembers.

Lotusland thanks KCBX and Wild Horse Winery & Vineyard for their generous support of this event.

—Connie Buxton



COURTESY PHOTO

Della the Regal Beagle (Ketzelt's love interest in Portland, Oregon) gets to sound off at Ketzelt's website, www.talkingplants.org, where she does a meaty biography of Ketzelt. Says Della, "I do the digging."



Collection News

NORTH AMERICAN PLANT COLLECTIONS CONSORTIUM

EARLY LAST DECEMBER, we were pleased to learn that Lotusland's cycad collection was granted Member Status in the North American Plant Collections Consortium (NAPCC).



VIRGINIA HAYES

A small portion of Lotusland's cycad collection. These plants are all in the genus *Encephalartos*.

The purpose of the NAPCC is to coordinate the conservation of plant germplasm in plant collections held in botanic gardens and arboreta.

The consortium is jointly supported by the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service. Member organizations must pass a stringent review process that assesses the extent and diversity of the collection, record-keeping and maintenance practices, and the institution's commitment to displaying, preserving, propagating, and sharing the collection.

The NAPCC seeks to encourage and recognize plant collections, both exotic and native to North America, that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- are rare, endangered in the wild, or from areas with difficult or restricted access
- exhibit disease and pest resistance
- are adaptable to a range of environmental conditions
- offer increased yields
- have significant ornamental or historical value

Some other member institutions include Huntington Botanical Garden for its collection of historically significant early cultivars of camellias, Arizona State University's edible date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) collection, U.S. National Arboretum with an ornamental boxwood (*Buxus*) collection, and Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens' diverse New World cloud forest collection. All of these organizations are engaged in the conservation, evaluation, or introduction of plants from these collections.

In joining the consortium, Lotusland takes responsibility for the preservation of one small part of the world's plant diversity. The genetic resources contained in the cycad collection will be held in trust and made available to future generations. Affiliation with the NAPCC affords Lotusland wider exposure through the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta website and other publications. Mentoring and other networking support is also offered, and the opportunity for funding of conservation efforts utilizing the collection is possible.

—Virginia Hayes

SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE FOR Travel with Lotusland: Gardens & Opera in Santa Fe AUGUST 11-15, 2003

OUR TRIP INCLUDES VISITS to private gardens, orchestra seats for *Così fan Tutti*, a stay at Inn at Loretto in deluxe rooms including breakfast, a welcome dinner at the Compound Restaurant, lunch at Geronimo's, and dinner before the opera at the Santacafé.

You will have ample time to explore the many attractions of Santa Fe—galleries, museums, shops, and walks in

the old town. Options include a second opera, *Madame Mao*, a Santa Fe Chamber Festival concert, and dinners at more of Santa Fe's fine restaurants.

Our escort is Lotusland's Executive Director, Steven Timbrook. Tour cost (land only): \$1,965 per person, double occupancy; single supplement: \$550. Please call 969-3767, extension 121, for more information.



Volunteer Profile: Norm Burr

LOVE OF LEARNING LEADS TO LOTUSLAND



Norm Burr

NORM BURR GREW UP on a farm in Attica, New York, where at age seven he helped his father build a barn from the ground up. "We gathered the wood, made the foundation; we did the whole thing." From age 11 to 18, he worked on his neighbor's farm helping him run his dairy, raise chickens, and tap his maple trees for syrup. This early industriousness seems to have laid the groundwork for his being a high achiever.

After receiving a Master's Degree in geophysics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Norm spent 13 years as a research seismologist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, eventually becoming the director of the laboratory's seismic research observatory. His work involved a verification program to distinguish between earthquakes and nuclear explosions (yes...they can tell the difference). During his last two years at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Norm and two colleagues started their own company—Delta Microsystems—to develop software and hardware for facilitating mass storage of computer data.

Norm retired at a very early age and spent the next ten years traveling and studying. It was on his travels

that Norm realized that Santa Barbara "is the best place I have seen on Earth. There is a combination of everything right here. Nowhere else offers such an extensive set of features that facilitate learning."

Norm's love of learning and his interest in geology and evolution led to his taking classes at UC Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara City College. He first visited Lotusland in 1999 with UCSB Professor Bruce Tiffney's paleobotany class and was delighted to find that Lotusland's plant collections represent such a wide span in the evolutionary development of plants. Wanting to learn more about the collections, Norm joined the docent training class the following fall.

As a Lotusland docent, Norm continues to be a high achiever. He is often called upon to lead tours for botanical groups and cheerfully responds to last-minute pleas for docents from the Visitor Services office. "He really helps us out in a pinch" is the oft-heard praise from Visitor Services for his beyond-the-call-of-duty support. But Norm will have to pare down his volunteer efforts because he recently accepted

a full-time position at SBCC to set up and maintain computer labs in the extensively refurbished Earth and Biological Sciences building, which includes a brand new computer lab with 30 computers.

The multi-discipline scientific perspective that Norm brings to his Lotusland tours is a bonus for visitors to the garden. Norm plans to develop a unique tour of Lotusland that concentrates on evolutionary advantages of plant adaptations over time, something that looks at the whole picture. "I have structured my life so that my understanding of the big picture is one of my main priorities." How fortunate for Lotusland to have a docent who can share his scientific knowledge in a fascinating way, using the garden's plant collections as an outdoor laboratory.

Norm and his wife Susan share their home with Patrick, a curly haired miniature poodle adopted from the animal shelter. He says Patrick is so smart he can do just about everything. The same could be said about Patrick's owner, and Lotusland is very grateful for it. Thanks, Norm, for all you do for Lotusland.

—Connie Buxton



Visitor Services staff members Madeline Petrini, Dorothy Shaner, and Jean Parry look upon Norm as their hero. "He always helps out in a pinch."

Friends of Lotusland

We Welcome New Members Who Joined in November, December 2002 and January 2003

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Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

November, December 2002 and January 2003

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honoring docent Norman Burr
and with thanks to Kellam de Forest
Mrs. Judith Little honoring
docent Margaret Dodd
with thanks to Trustee Stanya Owen
Ms. ML Quaternik & Ms. VL Beatley
honoring docent Dorothy Shaner
Ms. Dianne White
honoring "the Goddesses,
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Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form

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

Card number _____ 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: Member Events, 695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Talking Plants

PRESENTATION, RECEPTION and BOOK SIGNING with KETZEL LEVINE, NPR's *Doyenne of Dirt*
Saturday, May 31, 2003 • 3:00 PM (GATES OPEN AT 2:00 PM) • \$35/members • \$40/nonmembers

☐ I would like to purchase _____ copies of *Plant This!* for the special rate of \$16.
(If you check this box, please return this registration form no later than April 15th.)

No. of people attending _____ No. of books _____ No. of cars _____ Total \$ _____

Spring Garden Tour

With VIRGINIA HAYES

Saturday, April 26, 2003 • 9:15 AM TO 4:00 PM • \$35/members • \$95/nonmembers

No. of people attending _____ No. of cars _____ Total \$ _____

2003 Member Events

MANY LOTUSLAND EVENTS are open to non-members, so please let your friends and neighbors know about the great activities we offer. We hope you enjoy the year 2003 at Lotusland.

Saturday, March 22

Self-guided Tours for All Members

10:00 AM–12:30 PM

Members \$15 or use admission pass. Call 969-9990 for reservations
9 AM–NOON, M–F.

Friday, March 28

Creativity and Innovation: The Wonderful Hats of Ganna Walska with Dale Carolyn Gluckman, Curator of Costumes and Textiles, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
3:00 PM

High tea catered by the Four Seasons Biltmore. Generously sponsored by Carol L. Valentine; hats kindly donated by Hania Tallmadge. \$75; invitations have been mailed to all members.

Saturday, March 29

Creativity and Innovation: The Wonderful Hats of Ganna Walska with Dale Carolyn Gluckman, Curator of Costumes and Textiles, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
3:00 PM

Light refreshments will be served. Generously sponsored by Carol L. Valentine; hats kindly donated by Hania Tallmadge. \$25; invitations have been mailed to all members.

Saturday, April 12

Members' Family Day

Bottles & Cans & Worms—Oh, My!

10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Please see description and use the coupon on pages 8 and 9 to sign up.

Saturday, April 26

Spring Garden Tour for Members

9:15 AM–4:00 PM

Please see description on page 5; use the coupon above to sign up.

Saturday, May 24

Self-guided Tours for All Members

1:30–4:30 PM

Members \$15 or use admission pass. Call 969-9990 for reservations
9 AM–NOON, M–F.

Saturday, May 31

Talking Plants

with Ketzel Levine

3:00 PM; GATE OPENS AT 2:00 PM

Please see description on page 10; use the coupon above to sign up.

Saturday, July 19

Self-guided Tours for All Members

1:30–4:30 PM

Members \$15 or use admission pass. Call 969-9990 for reservations
9 AM–NOON, M–F.

Sunday, July 27

Lotusland Celebrates

Alice in Wonderland

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.

Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation

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2003 Member Events *Continued*

Friday, August 8

Aquatic Lecture Series

2:00 PM (Gate opens at 1:00 PM)
Lecture/demonstrations on aquatic plants and water gardening. Details will be announced in the *Summer Newsletter for Members*.

Saturday, August 9

Day of the Lotus

TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED
Enjoy a day of fun and education—see the lotuses and water lilies in bloom, question the water gardening staff and other experts, visit the wine-tasting booths, and listen to live music on the lawn. Details will be announced in the *Summer Newsletter for Members*.

Friday, August 15

Aquatic Lecture Series

2:00 PM (Gate opens at 1:00 PM)
Lecture/demonstrations on aquatic plants and water gardening. Details will be announced in the *Summer Newsletter for Members*.

Saturday, August 16

Summer Water Gardens Tour for Members with Lotusland's Curator of the Living Collections, Virginia Hayes

9:15 AM–4:00 PM

Tour of local private gardens with a wide variety of styles of water

features. Includes motor coach transportation and lunch. Details will be announced in the *Summer Newsletter for Members*.

Saturday, August 23

Self-guided Tours for All Members

10:00 AM–12:30 PM

Members \$15 or use admission pass. Call 969-9990 for reservations 9 AM–NOON, M–F.

Fall Date TBA

Spanish-Language Sustainability Workshop

Lotusland, in collaboration with Santa Barbara Community Environmental Council's Green Gardener Program, will host this workshop that will focus on plant health care methods used in the gardens at Lotusland. The workshop will be offered in Spanish, the native language of many of our green industry workers and proprietors. Details will be in the *Fall Newsletter for Members*.

Saturday, November 15

Japanese Garden Aesthetic Pruning Workshop with Lotusland Japanese Garden Specialists

2:00–4:00 PM

This hands-on workshop will focus on pines and offers an opportunity to learn methods

used by our highly skilled garden specialists. Watch for details in the *Fall Newsletter for Members*.

November 15

Last regular tour day until February 18, 2004.

Saturday, December 6

Holiday shopping and Self-guided Tours

1:30–4:30 PM

Members \$15 or use free admission pass; nonmembers \$20. Call 969-9990 for reservations 9 AM–NOON, M–F.

Tours

To schedule a tour, please call Visitor Services at (805) 969-9990, 9 AM–NOON, M–F. Docent-led tours for adults and children, age 10 and older, are scheduled Wednesday through Saturday at 10 AM and 1:30 PM. Children under 10 years of age may accompany their families on tours on Thursdays and the second Saturday of each month. *Admission fees:* adults and children 10 years of age and older \$15 or use admission passes; children under ten \$8; children under two free.