



## Madame Walska and Antonia Crowninshield: A Prickly Friendship

By SHARON CRAWFORD

BY THE TIME MADAME WALSKA received the accolades of the Cactus and Succulent Society tour in July 1953, she already had gained some confidence as a cactus collector. Several commercial growers she met during her early shopping expeditions contributed to her knowledge as well as her collection. One of them was John Poindexter, a young botanist and wholesale nurseryman of Carlsbad. He provided Madame Walska with many plants from 1949 until 1951, when he sold his nursery to accept a teaching position at Occidental College. Before his academic appointment consumed all of his time, Poindexter spent several days identifying and labeling the existing cactus at Lotusland, but he never finished the job. Poindexter also informed Madame Walska about the permit and inspection requirements for importing cactus to California from other states and Mexico. And he facilitated her access to those sources by introducing her to a botanical field collector he knew in Tucson, Arizona: Antonia Crowninshield.

In the 1950s, certified botanical field collectors were permitted to collect cacti and succulents in the wild, and Mrs. Crowninshield had

*Continued on page 2*



*Madame Walska directs a member of her gardening staff as he unwraps a "Trichocereus" that she purchased from Antonia Crowninshield in the early fifties.*

PHOTOS FROM LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

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*Second in a series. For a copy of "Madame Walska: Cactus Collector (1941-1953)" by Sharon Crawford in the Spring 2003 Lotusland Newsletter for Members, please call (805) 969-3767, extension 124.*



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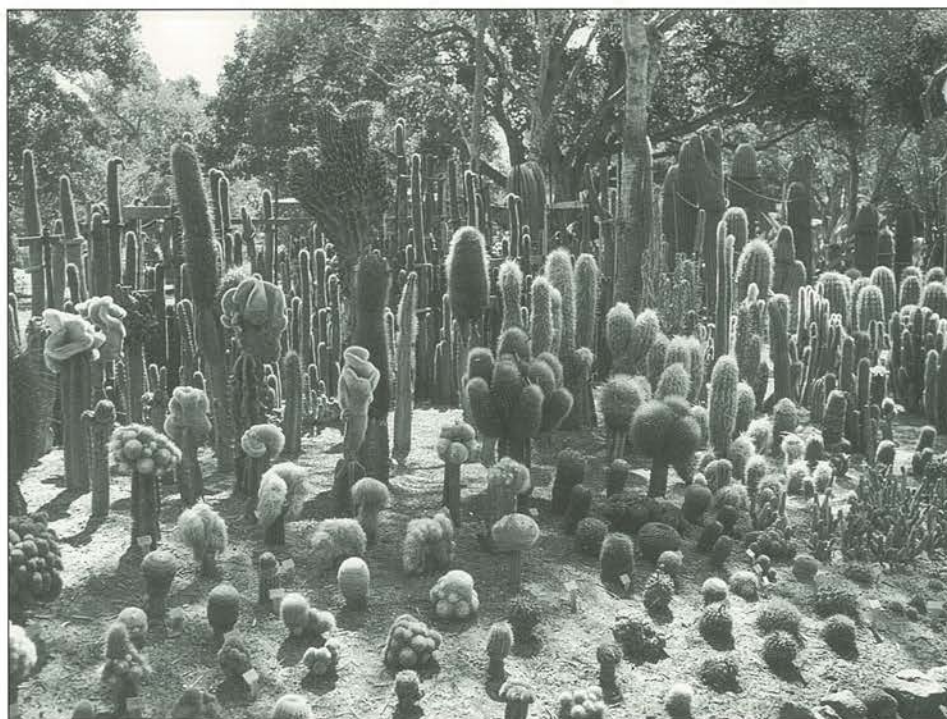
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Ganna Walska was very fond of collecting crested forms of cacti. These forms, often temperamental in the garden, have been grafted onto more vigorous species of cacti.

*Continued from page 1*

such a permit. She accepted commissions to collect for public parks and botanical gardens as far away as Pennsylvania. Mrs. Crowninshield did her field collecting primarily during the summer when her teenage daughter could tend the three younger siblings, and occupied herself with garden design and installation during the winter. Information about large or unusual cacti sometimes came to her from local ranchers who had noticed them from horseback. It could be difficult to gain access by truck and remove a large cactus, but

Crowninshield took pride in her ability to move such plants without damage, using packing quilts for protection. She preferred to deliver large plants herself, but when they had to be shipped, she custom built wooden crates for each one. Self-described as "Just a simple woman afraid of crowds,...and actually enjoying the rugged roads, food and accommodations that collecting plants mean," she declared, "I have a peculiar weakness concerning live plants and often go into silent rhapsodies by myself when out collecting in the desert. I love the perfection of these lonely dwellers, so much beauty and so small and inconsequential an audience!!!!" Although it would seem that she had little in common with Madame Walska other than their love of cacti, they developed a warm relationship over a three-year period, despite occasional unfortunate incidents.

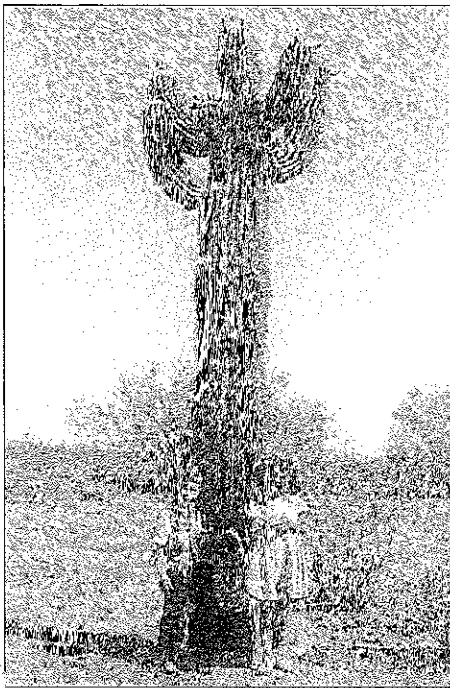
Their initial correspondence was in autumn 1949, when Walska requested Rainbow Cactus, *Echinocereus rigidissimus*: "I wish them to be as big as possible for I want to build special clumps with those." But Mrs. Crowninshield was not able to collect the

desired plants in Mexico until the following spring. During that winter, Madame Walska arranged to be driven to Tucson for a personal meeting. The order of Mexican *Echinocereus*, *Echinocactus* and *Mammillaria* was shipped in April 1950. A second order, including several blue palms and more than \$500 worth of cacti, was delivered by Mrs. Crowninshield, taking the 24-hour drive straight through, and charging only \$50 to cover travel expenses. Madame Walska wrote, "Useless to say that I shall be very, very happy to see you again, independently of the plants that you will bring."

In July 1950, Madame Walska wrote about how busy she had been with guests, parties, Music Festival and concerts, "and did not even have a chance to go to the garden." But now she was ready to think about what she wanted next: ocotillo, "because I do not have any." She also asked for more agaves and one more big saguaro, 9-10 feet tall. She complained that the idrias previously delivered were not successful, "and the picture is not brilliant." Like ocotillo, idria loses its sparse leaves

and goes dormant during the summer, and Madame Walska believed they were dying. Regarding the idria, Antonia responded, "most collectors realize it takes from six months on to bring a collected plant back to nice form," and warned against overwatering them. Idria's value to collectors increased dramatically the following year, when Mexico declared its exportation illegal. Experienced at border crossing, Mrs. Crowninshield managed to bring out a few more "with a very special permit from the local Mexican Forest Ranger who likes American money."

The winter of 1950-51 was the first in which Madame Walska did not leave Lotusland for New York. In February, she wrote Antonia to inquire about her plans for plant collecting. Again, she declared a need for more saguaros, having removed a hedge to create space for them, specifying, "only especially beautiful in form and size." She concluded, "As for our gardens...I made such a fundamental change and got such enormous quantity of blue agaves." Still, she requested, "if ever you run



When Antonia Crowninshield located a specimen that she thought Madame Walska would like, she often included her children in a photograph to provide scale. None of the saguaros, such as the one pictured, survived.

across any blue agaves, small or big... please think of me. I must have a forest of them!"

One of their rare misunderstandings occurred that August, when Antonia mentioned a large golden barrel cactus that was available for \$75. She mistakenly wrote that it was six feet in diameter, and it took several letters to affirm that she actually meant six feet in circumference. Meanwhile, the golden barrel was sold to another buyer. When Antonia delivered the order in September, with no golden barrel, Madame Walska did not hide her displeasure. A week later, she wrote to apologize: "you must understand my feeling and forgive me for showing you my great disappointment." Antonia responded, "I'm sorry you were so very obviously disappointed but after driving all night without sleep in order to keep my promise to you that I would be there the following morning at about ten you can hardly blame me for my bewilderment at my reception."

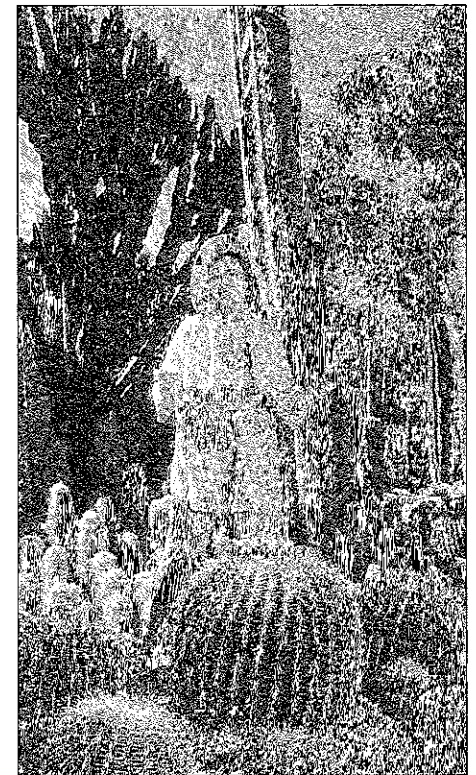
In December Mrs. Crowninshield wrote about a "monster" *Echinocactus wislizenii* with numerous heads: "Since you seem to show so much interest in freak forms I have taken particular pains in them myself." The 300-pound plant was shipped in a 3.5' by 4' crate she made especially for it. Informing Madame Walska that the plant was on its way, she added, "I know you like our coloured rock so I slipped in three pieces of pretty copper that I lugged down out of an old mine myself." Ganna thanked her first for the cactus, then in a separate letter, for the "blue stones," saying, "They certainly look beautiful on the path that leads to my terrace."

In August 1952, Madame Walska dictated a letter while she secluded herself to avoid encountering groups of ladies who were touring the garden. Acknowledging Crowninshield's contributions to her garden, she wrote, "I have to thank you for the success, of which I am sure, of this

garden tour because the greatest part, more effective than anything else, is my forest of Arizona, of saguaros and forest of idrias." Madame Walska's "Arizona forest" was further enlarged with another delivery of 12 saguaros and eight *Idria columnarias* that September. As she often did, Antonia included several plants gratis.

The final order in the correspondence folder was in December 1952. Mrs. Crowninshield wrote that she had nine golden barrel cacti available. She had been pursuing their purchase for some time, but hadn't mentioned it because of "a painful memory of a certain incident—the time I was so sure of securing the golden barrel...which I wasn't able to supply." Madame Walska responded exuberantly: "Hooray for the golden barrels! Even though you don't write how big or how small they are but even small now I am not so proud and want to have a monopoly for all barrels, grandfather, mother or babies."

Their relationship might have had a few prickly incidents, but it appears to have had an upbeat ending.



The golden barrel cactus was among Madame Walska's favorites.





## LOTUSLAND'S BEST SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

### Palms

PALMS HAVE LONG BEEN a signature plant for southern California. Lotusland's palm collection, which is still increasing, began in the late 1800s when R. Kinton Stevens started a nursery for the introduction of exotic plants to the Santa Barbara area. The many majestic Chilean wine palms (*Jubaea chilensis*) that grace the gardens today date back to that early beginning. Madame Ganna Walska added many other varieties of palms as she developed Lotusland into the magnificent garden it is today.

Because palms, like all monocots, do not produce secondary wood, they have very different growth characteristics and requirements than woody trees. For example, palms cannot form callouses over wounds the way that woody trees can, so injury to their trunks is permanent. Injuries can eventually develop into trunk cankers, which can weaken the trunk and result in trunk failure. The improper removal of fronds, by tearing away outer trunk tissue, can cause cankers in some species of palms. We never use spikes to climb the trunks, as they cause permanent injuries. We have all seen palms that have been trimmed so severely that only three or four green fronds are left. Since the palms depend on green fronds to manufacture their food, this practice places them under serious stress and makes them vulnerable to disease. Knowledgeable arborists have long campaigned against this practice.

Southern California is fortunate to have a climate suitable for growing palms from many places around the world. Many palms do well at Lotusland, although we have experienced injury to some from the more tropical regions on those rare occasions when the temperature drops below freezing. This damage appears a few weeks after the freeze, when the new foliage turns brown. While most palms recover from this injury,



PHOTOS BY VIRGINIA HAYES

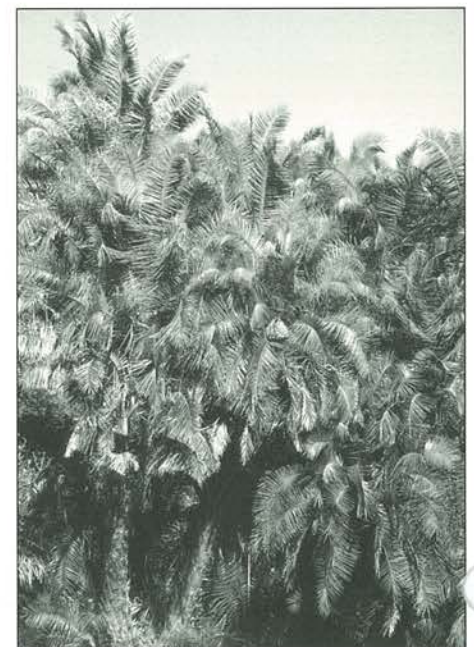
*Fifty genera with more than 160 species comprise the palm collection at Lotusland. Palms are located throughout most of the garden. Dead fronds are not pruned off some species, allowing a natural "skirt" to form.*

we have had a few that went into decline and died some months or years later. It is important to research the temperature requirements before purchasing palms. Suitable micro-climates, near a south-facing wall, for instance, can often be found for the more tender ones.

Palm diseases were one of the compelling reasons that influenced us to transition to sustainable management, and our collection is thriving under these practices. Nearly all of our palms are in mulched areas. While we originally focused on applying prescribed amounts of nutrients in chemical forms to individual palms, our focus now is on improving the soil through the use of compost, compost tea, organic mulches, and organic fertilizers.

Some of the more virulent palm diseases such as *fusarium* have no conventional cure and are always fatal. While other less-severe diseases can be managed by conventional methods, our sustainable management practices provide a much preferred approach. Our goal is to develop a

healthy soil in which the disease pathogens are out-competed by beneficial micro-organisms. Mycorrhizal fungi, rarely found in conventionally managed soils, help these sustainable systems prosper in many different



*Sustainable management practices have improved the health of Lotusland's palm collection.*



ways, including enhancing the plant's disease resistance.

In addition to the aforementioned practices, we employ two classical plant pathology prevention techniques: exclusion and sanitation. New plants brought into the garden are closely scrutinized for any possible problem before adding them to our collection, thus minimizing the importation of new problems. Sanitation

is especially appropriate for palms, as many of the more serious palm diseases, including *fusarium*, are easily spread through infected pruning tools. As a general rule, chainsaws are not used when working on palms because of the near impossibility of disinfecting them completely. At Lotusland, all pruning tools are disinfected between uses on individual palms. We soak pruning tools in a

10% solution of household bleach for ten minutes after each tree pruned. After rinsing the tools with water, a quick spray of WD-40 helps to prevent corrosion.

Our standard disinfectant procedure can be used by anyone to ensure that they do not spread pathogens from an infected palm to a healthy palm.

—John Lafleur

## New to the Collections

WATERLILIES are not new to the collections at Lotusland, but every year we put a few new ones on display. While the hardy varieties (in the pond east of the lotuses) stay in the pond year-round and are extremely reliable in returning from dormancy, the same cannot be said of the tropical varieties (in the westernmost portion of the pond). As their name suggests, they are bred from species of *Nymphaea* that hail from the tropics of Africa, Asia, and Australia. At Lotusland, these plants, many still sporting bright flowers at the end of the summer, are removed from the pond and put into heated



PHOTOS BY VIRGINIA HAYES

By late summer, the tropical waterlilies nearly cover the entire surface of the pond.



The petals of night-blooming *Nymphaea* 'Red Flare' flowers are tightly closed in this photograph taken in mid-day.

tanks for the winter months. Even so, a few succumb to the chill and dark and need replacing.

This year the tropical waterlily list includes a selection from the hundreds of available cultivars in all the shades of the rainbow. Most open in the morning hours and close at dusk, but a few are night-bloomers that do just the opposite. If you visit the garden in the morning, you will be able to catch them in the act of retiring for the day. Here's a partial listing of my favorite varieties.

For flower color, the intense pinks of *N.* 'Evelyn Randig' and *N.* 'Jack Wood' are tops; deep purple *N.* 'Director Moore' and *N.* 'Midnight' can't be beat; and the peachy, sunset tones of *N.* 'Albert Greenberg' and otherworldly purple-blushed green

flowers of *N.* 'Green Smoke' stand out in any pond.

Some varieties have interesting foliage, too. *N.* 'Madame Ganna Walska' has lime green leaves splashed with dark maroon (and pale pink flowers, of course). Other variegated selections include *N.* 'Leopardess' and *N.* 'Mr. Martin Randig.' Two outstanding night-blooming varieties are *N.* 'Wood's White Knight' and *N.* 'Red Flare' with deep rose-red flowers rising above burgundy-colored leaves.

These and many more will fill the pond with a kaleidoscope of color from mid-summer until the end of the season. To enjoy them at their peak, plan a visit to the garden in July, August, or September.

—Virginia Hayes

# Volunteer Profile: Margie Hanft

## A LIFE-LONG LOVE OF ART AND BOOKS



DEBBIE HILD

*Margie Hanft*

LOTUSLAND IS VERY FORTUNATE to have retired librarian Margie Hanft as our volunteer librarian. In 1999, after a career at the California Institute of the Arts that included ten years as a reference librarian, Margie retired to Santa Barbara. When she responded to a volunteer recruitment announcement, Lotusland staff members were delighted to discover that Margie had extensive library experience and immediately put her to work on the task of cataloging the backlog of new books that had accumulated in our library. With the help of a fellow retired librarian, Margie then proceeded to do a major book inventory of the entire collection. In addition to her work in the library, where she continues to create and maintain the card catalogue, Margie was our volunteer videographer for the last two docent training sessions and assists with the production of the volunteer newsletter, *Lotus Notice*.

Margie was raised in the mid-west where her love of books began at an early age. She recalls the day, at age 12, when the librarian suggested that she move on to the adult section of books because in fact she had read every single book in the children's section of the library. She was

hooked. Books were to be a significant part of her life from then on.

Margie studied both journalism and art history at Northwestern University. After graduating, she moved to San Francisco where she met and married a college English professor. After moving to southern California, Margie earned a Master of Arts degree in library science at Immaculate Heart College. Upon graduation she was hired by the librarian of the new arts school, the California Institute of the Arts. During her 29 years there, Margie held various positions in the film library and ended her career as Head Reference Librarian.

Margie exposed her young sons to the films and art that she was surrounded by, and later the boys would prove to be influenced by what she shared with them. Both sons attended Cal Arts. One studied film and is now a feature film director living in Los Angeles; the other studied photography and is now

a successful nature photographer living in Kauai.

Since retirement, Margie has the time to indulge her two passions: travel and writing. She has taken several writing classes in Santa Barbara City College's Adult Education Program and is a member of a local writers' group. Like many visitors and volunteers drawn to Lotusland, she was attracted by the "work of art" that Madame Walska had created. She continues to be fascinated and stimulated by the beauty of the surroundings here and appreciates the many lectures offered for volunteers and members. We appreciate her devotion and her incredible organizational skills. Thank you Margie, for all you do.

—Debbie Hild

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Lotusland's library is not a circulating library. It is used by staff members and volunteers and is available to researchers by appointment.

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DEWEY

Retiring Trustees B. Jo Dake and Stanya Owen get a goodbye hug from Board President Bob Emmons after eleven and six years, respectively, of dedicated service on Lotusland's Board of Trustees. We are quite lucky that both will continue to volunteer in support of Lotusland's programs.





## Prospective Docent Reception & Docent Training for Fall 2003

MANY TALENTED LANDSCAPE DESIGNERS and horticulturalists, who were experts in their field, transformed Madame Ganna Walska's extraordinarily creative vision of garden design into reality. This transformation has been an ongoing process, each garden yielding fascinating stories about its beginnings and metamorphosis into its present-day form.

Visitors to Lotusland are treated to botanical and historical information about the estate interpreted by docents, who have undergone extensive training to prepare them for giving public tours.

Every other fall, a 14-week docent-training course provides all the knowledge needed for conducting a tour of the garden. Instructors are drawn from the staff at Lotusland, the Santa Barbara community, and other California academic and horticultural institutions. These informative and enjoyable Monday-morning sessions consist of an indoor and usually an outdoor portion, lasting approximately three hours. This fall's docent training will begin on September 15.

A Prospective Docent reception will be held at 2 PM on Thursday, August 21. This biennial event offers prospective docents an opportunity to learn more about docent training and to meet some of the very knowledgeable docents who currently lead tours of the garden. If you would like to receive an invitation to the reception or want more information about becoming a docent, please call our Volunteer Coordinator, Debbie Hild, at 969-3767, extension 116 or email [dhild@lotusland.org](mailto:dhild@lotusland.org).







# Members' Family Day, April 12, 2003

SPONSORED BY THE ROBERT & CHRISTINE EMMONS FOUNDATION

Lotusland is grateful for the continued support of Members' Family Day by Thomas & Nancy Crawford, Jr., in honor of their grandchildren, and is pleased that several of the Crawford grandchildren were able to enjoy the day.



Volunteers at the "Bugapaloosa" helped visitors create jewelry and garden sculptures from an enticing array of recycled materials.



Decorating and planting a garden pot was a popular activity and provided a long-lasting memory of the event.



Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle was the theme for the day.

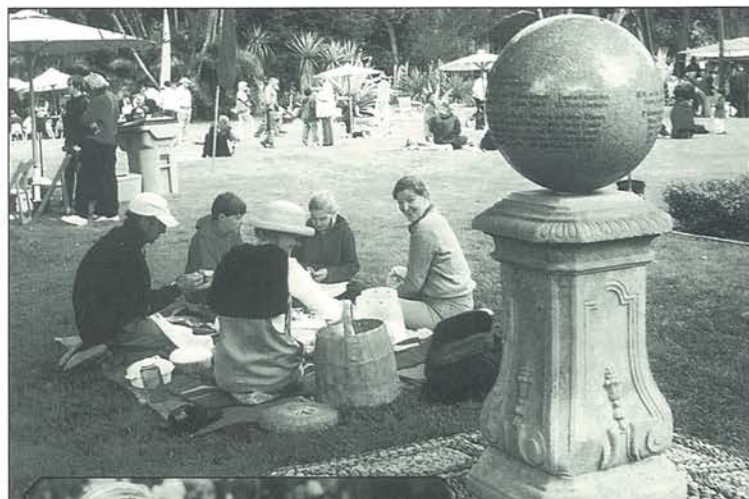
A young guest plays "Tossin' Trash" in hope of winning some candy worms.



Guests, young and old, dressed up in trashy costumes for their souvenir photo by the talented and popular photographer Bob DeBris.



DANA LEVY



Members enjoyed a delicious barbecue lunch from Tinker's Summerland Catering Company served on washable dishes and cutlery, with reusable cloth napkins.



Complimentary McConnell's ice cream cones continued the recycling theme by providing an edible "bowl."



# Bottles & Cans & Worms—Oh, My!

THOMAS & NANCY CRAWFORD JR. IN HONOR OF THEIR GRANDCHILDREN



Face painting artist Angie Lawson created a beautiful butterfly on this young painter's cheek. Guests of all ages contributed to the giant mural—the canvas will be reused at next year's Members' Family Day.



Jody Rundle and Dana Green from the Santa Barbara Waste Department generously provided a display and handouts and donated their time to tell visitors how they can help the environment.



Families went on the "Recycle Rally" to learn about Lotusland's recycling practices, which include composting and a worm bin (left).

The giant "worms," above, were seen throughout the garden.



If you went on the Recycling Rally, you were sure to meet the Compost Queen (aka Dorothy Shaner from Lotusland's Visitor Services Office) pictured here with the Recycling Queen (aka Curator Virginia Hayes). Virginia spent most of the day at the Recycling Center on the main lawn, where guests sorted their recyclables and trash.



The Pan-A-Cea Calypso Trio provided lively entertainment on the patio from noon to 2:00. The banner shown above them thanks our sponsors.



Storyteller Michael Katz enthralled audiences at two performances in the theatre garden.





# Aquatic Sun

LOTUSLAND WISHES TO THANK SANDRA & WILLIAM NICHOLSON FOR  
LOTUSLAND ALSO WISHES TO THANK THE PARTICIPATING

## LAKES TO TABLE TOP FOUNTAINS LECTURE AND DEMONSTRATION WITH BARBARA DOBBINS DAVIES Friday, August 8 2:00 TO 4:30 PM

BARBARA DOBBINS DAVIES returns to give another inspiring and informational lecture—*Lakes to Table Top Fountains: Planning Your Water Garden from Large to Small*. Her illustrated slide lecture will detail the process of designing a water feature. Construction materials, site constraints, and style considerations are just a few of the topics that she will cover in this comprehensive overview.

After the lecture, Curator Virginia Hayes will join Barbara in a hands-on demonstration of the endless possibilities in creating table-top fountains. Participants will learn how easy it is to assemble these

mini-water gardens using readily available materials. One lucky person will take home one of the creations as a door prize.

Admission is \$35 for Lotusland members and \$40 for nonmembers; includes lecture, workshop, and refreshments. Please use the coupon on page 19 to register.



Barbara Dobbins Davies demonstrated how to divide and repot different types of aquatic plants at last year's lecture.

VIRGINIA HAYES

## SUCCESS WITH WATER PLANTS LECTURE AND DEMONSTRATION WITH DAVID CURTRIGHT Friday, August 15 2:00 TO 4:30 PM

DAVID CURTRIGHT of Freshwater Flora and Fauna in San Diego will give an illustrated lecture on *Success with Water Plants*. He draws on his 22 years of experience with ponds and plants to describe all the types and uses for aquatic plants in a variety of water features.

Following the lecture, David will demonstrate how to divide and repot several kinds of plants, including waterlilies. Some of these aquatic plants will be raffled off to lucky attendees.

Admission is \$35 for Lotusland members and \$40 for nonmembers; includes lecture, workshop, and refreshments. Please use the coupon on page 19 to register.



David Curtright (far right) and friends surveyed the native waterlily species in Kakadu, Australia earlier this year.

COURTESY PHOTO





# er Series 2003

ROSLY SPONSORING LOTUSFEST AND THE SUMMER LECTURE SERIES  
/INTNERS AND IKENOBO IKEBANA FOR THEIR SUPPORT

## LOTUSFEST

**Saturday, August 9**

**10:00 AM TO 4:30 PM**

LOTUSLAND INVITES YOU to *LotusFest* in celebration of the legendary flower that is its namesake. August is peak lotus blooming season, and guests will have the opportunity to view these uniquely beautiful flowers in all their splendor plus learn about this revered plant through special educational exhibits. Lotus flowers open during the day and close at night. Prime viewing time for lotuses is between 10 AM and 3 PM, depending upon weather conditions.



The lotus has played an important role in Asian culture since ancient times, and an Asian influence figures prominently in morning events of the day. Daiko drummers will charm guests with their precision drumming performance, and Ikebana (the art of Japanese flower arranging) demonstrations are sure to delight and amaze.

A buffet luncheon will provide food for the body to complement the delights of the spirit, and the afternoon will bring more pleasures as guests enjoy premium wine tasting from ten fine local vintners while listening to live jazz in the theatre



*Lotuses (Asian lotus on left) and waterlilies (hybrid waterlily on right) will be in full bloom for LotusFest.*

garden. Each guest will receive a specially commissioned Lotusland wine glass to take home as a keepsake of a memorable day. Taste fine offerings of the following vintners: 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.

## Schedule of Events

- 10 AM TO NOON  
Ikenobo Ikebana Demonstrations  
Main House
- 10:30 TO 11:15 AM  
Togen Daiko (Drummers)  
Main Lawn
- 12:30 TO 2:30 PM  
Buffet Luncheon
- 12:30 TO 3:30 PM  
Wine Tasting  
Theatre Garden
- 12:30 & 2:30 PM  
The Undecided Trio (Live Jazz)  
Theatre Garden

*Admission is \$75 for Lotusland members and \$85 for nonmembers; includes valet parking, buffet luncheon, wine tasting, LotusFest wine glass, and entertainment. Please use coupon on page 19 to register.*

## GARDEN TOUR

**WITH VIRGINIA HAYES**

**Saturday, August 16**

**9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM**

TO ROUND OUT the summer offerings on all things aquatic, Curator Virginia Hayes will lead a tour of local gardens featuring ponds, fountains, and more. Participants will have a chance to see a wide range of water elements from large to small.

*Admission is \$85 for Lotusland members and \$95 for nonmembers; includes a delicious lunch and deluxe coach transportation from Lotusland. Please use coupon on page 19 to register.*



*Little has changed in Lotusland's water garden since this photo was taken about ten years ago.*



## Lotusland Welcomes a New Trustee

LOTUSLAND IS PLEASED to welcome Nancy Wood as its newest member of the Board of Trustees.



Nancy L. Wood

Nancy and her husband Kent moved permanently to Santa Barbara in 1994 after being "weekenders" for several years. She is a familiar face at Lotusland, having been a docent for almost eight years.

In addition to being a passionate gardener, Nancy is an active community volunteer in organizations such as the Women's Board of the Community Arts Music Association (CAMA), the Santa Barbara Horticultural Society, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art Collectors Council, the Westmont Art Council, and the Coast Quilters' Guild.

Nancy plans to continue as an active docent and looks forward to working with the Board of Trustees in furthering the growth of Lotusland's public programs.

## Lotusland: Gardens & Opera in Santa Fe AUGUST 11 TO 15, 2003

THROUGH ARCHED GATEWAYS and carved portals, behind adobe walls and coyote fences, the artistic and imaginative gardens of Canyon Road compounds and hilltop estates await Lotusland members!

Explore, enjoy, and learn with Lotusland Director Dr. Steven Timbrook on this easy, summer getaway, which includes:  
three mornings of touring private gardens,  
a night of Mozart's heavenly *Così fan Tutti* at the renowned Santa Fe Opera Theater,  
lunch and dinners at top restaurants  
and accommodations at the historic Inn of Loretto—replete with private patios for sunset and star gazing.  
Please call (805) 969-3767, extension 121 for details.



JACK PARSONS



CONNIE TON

A group who attended the California Preservation Conference, held in Santa Barbara in April, took time out for a visit to Lotusland. They thoroughly enjoyed a tour with docent Anita Sheen.





## The LOTUS SOCIETY

### PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS CAN HELP YOU PLAN FOR THE FUTURE: YOURS AND LOTUSLAND'S

DECIDING TO WHOM to leave your money, and how much and when, and for what purpose and how, is not an easy matter.

However, help is on the way. With the guidance of several professional financial planners, Lotusland has developed a Planned Giving Program that affords donors the ability to make gifts to Lotusland while saving substantially on income, capital gains, and estate taxes. Some arrangements can even increase your current income.

To help you evaluate your options and reach your goals, Lotusland provides private charitable planning consultations with skilled experts for friends of Lotusland—without cost or obligation.

Estate planning attorney Arthur Gaudi, charitable planner Sally Walker, and others are available to meet with you and your family. Lotusland's advisors have many years of professional experience in helping people achieve their financial and philanthropic goals.

They start by reviewing your

goals and needs, the people you wish to benefit and the plans you currently have in place. You will receive written recommendations that you can share with your financial and legal advisors before implementation. There is no cost or obligation, and any information you provide is strictly confidential. You will, of course, consult with your own attorney, accountant, and other advisors as well.

Charitable planning often provides wonderful alternative solutions to common estate-planning problems and may provide a future gift to help preserve Madame Walska's unique botanical treasure for future generations.

Why not check it out? For questions or to make a consultation appointment, call Anne Dewey, Director of Development, at 969-3767, ext. 105. —Sally Walker

### LUNCHEON HONORS LOTUS SOCIETY MEMBERS



*The luncheon was held at the beautiful home and garden of Lotusland trustee Carol Valentine, shown with Jim Owen. Members of The Lotus Society have each contributed \$10,000 or more to the Endowment Fund.*



*Norman and Helen Hillemann have been helping Lotusland since 1993. The Ganna Walska Foundation is very pleased to have their additional support as members of The Lotus Society.*



*The fabulous ocean and island views were enjoyed by Jacqueline Stevens, Holly Cramer, Suzanne Faulkner, Arthur Gaudi, Anna Marie Halling and George Halling.*



## Creativity and Innovation: The Wonderful Hats of Madame Walska

LOTUSLAND HAD TWO sold-out events on March 28 and 29 for the illustrated lectures by the curator of costumes and textiles at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Dale Carolyn Gluckman.

In her far-ranging and fascinating illustrated lecture, Ms. Gluckman talked about Madame Walska's hats and the designers who created them. Famous designers such as Mr. John, Lily Dasche, Balenciaga, Halston and

Mme. Suzy of Paris made hundreds of hats for Ganna Walska over several decades. According to Ms. Gluckman, "In Madame Walska's era, women wore hats indoors, outdoors, with slacks and with ball gowns."

Following the talks, guests were delighted to have the opportunity to see Madame Walska's remarkable hat collection: fur hats, exotic turbans decorated with spectacular jewels, a

stuffed bird nesting in a feather hat, poufs of veiling and silk flowers, and fabulous flower hats.

We are very grateful to Madame Walska's niece, Hania Tallmadge, who donated the hats to Lotusland and who lent the fabulous jewelry, scarves, gloves, and purses that enhanced the exhibit.

Our thanks also go to Trustee Carol Valentine, who generously sponsored this event.

PHOTOS BY NELL CAMPBELL



Scott Hogue's whimsical creations greeted visitors and decorated the tea table. The hats were made entirely of greenery and flowers, mostly from Lotusland's gardens.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Our guest of honor, Hania Tallmadge, who generously donated her aunt's glamorous hats, is pictured with the speaker, LACMA's curator of costumes and textiles Dale Carolyn Gluckman, and Trustee Carol Valentine, who sponsored the event, wearing a hat that belonged to her mother.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Trustee Kisa Heyer, Karen Kolb, Trustee Ella Brittingham and Trustee Carol Valentine (not pictured) formed the hard-working committee that produced the stunning exhibit of hats, jewelry, scarves, gloves, purses, and photographs.



Saks Fifth Avenue kindly lent us mannequins to use to display some of the wonderful hats and scarves that belonged to Madame Walska. The exhibit also included photographs of Madame Walska wearing the hats she loved.



## Talking Plants

KETZEL LEVINE, also known as the "Doyenne of Dirt" to her National Public Radio audiences, made a personal appearance at Lotusland in May.

Speaking to a roomful of her fans (some old, some made on the spot), she told "The Fence Story." Using her own experience with a new yard and neighborhood, Ketzel described the challenges and triumphs of designing and constructing her garden fence. While the subject might seem mundane, Ketzel's sometimes irreverent and decidedly witty presentation had her audience laughing right along with her as she detailed her travail. Before and after photos of the project led to a discussion of some of her favorite plants.

Though Ketzel gardens in Portland, Oregon, her knowledge of horticulture is not restricted to her Northwest zone. She had sound advice for local gardeners in the audience and delivered it in her delightfully cheeky manner.

One of Ketzel's major points was a warning about the invasive nature of many common garden plants. She



CONNIE BUXTON

Ketzel Levine and Curator Virginia Hayes spent two afternoons "talking plants" in and around Santa Barbara. Here, they pose for the camera in Lotusland's cycad garden.

strongly urges gardeners everywhere to be aware of the consequences of planting vigorous exotic plants that are likely to escape into the wild and endanger native flora. In fact, she planned to hurry home to cut off all the blossoms of her pride of Madeira (*Echium fastuosum*) before they went to seed.

Guests at the lecture were delighted to chat with Ketzel and have their copies of her book *Plant This!* signed at a reception following the presentation. The weather was lovely, the garden sparkled, and the company of plant lovers was choice; it was an exceptional affair.

—Virginia Hayes

EXCERPT FROM

### *Plant This! Best Bets for Year-Round Gorgeous Gardens*

by Ketzel Levine  
and René Eisenbart (Illustrator).

"Every once in a while a botanical name gets stuck in my head like a catchy tune. It all started years ago with *Tradescantia*, which hit me like the Hallelujah Chorus. In fact, that's how I memorized its name—singing it to that famous chorus from Handel's *Messiah*: TRAD-escantia! TRAD-escantia! TradesCANTia! TradesCANTia! TradesCA-A-AN-tia!

Of course, some plant names make their own music: *Chamaecyparis* (cammaSIParris)...*Diascia* (deeASSeeya)...*Melaleuca* (mellaLUKEah)...each a lyric waiting for a song. Others, such as the incredibly suggestive *Polygala*, come with their own short story.

Depending on your bent, *Polygala chamaebuxus* (poLIgala camee-BUCKsus) conjures up images of either a debauched Roman emperor or a fairy-tale princess with chubby cheeks ("One day, little Polygala bought a big box of chocolates...")."



VIRGINIA HAYES



## In Memoriam

*FRIENDS OF LOTUSLAND* lost longtime member Ellen Somdahl, when she passed away on Wednesday, April 30th. Ellen became a Lotusland volunteer soon after joining in 1993 and was a graduate of the 1997 Docent Training class.

Many will remember Ellen's

winning smile and generous spirit. She loved the gardens and enjoyed sharing her knowledge of the plants and history of Lotusland with scores of visitors over the years.

We will all miss Ellen and will not forget her many contributions to Lotusland.  
—Debbie Hild



Ellen Somdahl

COURTESY PHOTO

## Gift Annuities Now Available

A new giving option  
is available for  
Lotusland friends  
age 55 and up.

A Gift Annuity offers you:

- Immediate tax savings
- A guaranteed, fixed income for life
- Rates from 5.5% (age 55) to 11.3% (age 90 and over)
- Capital gains tax relief
- Future gift to Lotusland

For a free, personal illustration of the benefits for your situation, call Anne Dewey, Director of Development, at 805-969-3767, extension 105.



## Alice in Lotusland

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Lotusland Celebrates**  
**Alice in Lotusland**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2003 • 4 TO 3 PM**

We invite you to support  
*Lotusland Celebrates—Alice in Lotusland*  
as a Patron Table Host at \$3,000 with ten tickets  
or as a Patron at \$1,000 with two tickets.

Patron Table Hosts and Patrons receive  
special recognition on the invitation  
and in the program, if the donation  
is received prior to our print deadlines.

Invitations will be mailed to all members  
in mid-June. Please contact  
Anne Dewey, Director of Development, at  
(805) 969-3767, extension 105 for further details.





# Friends of Lotusland

We Welcome New Members Who Joined in February, March and April 2003

## LEVEL I

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Adams  
Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Bailard  
Ms. Julie Bernard  
Ms. Heather Braham  
Mr. & Mrs. John Brant  
Mr. Arthur Bremer  
Ms. Cynthia A. Brockett  
Mr. James-Paul Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Bruner & Family  
Mrs. Joyce Cantrell  
Ms. Karen Carissimi  
Ms. Betsy Carlovsky  
Mr. & Mrs. George R. Chapman  
Mr. & Mrs. William Clements  
Lawrence P. Cooper  
& Mary Elizabeth Myers  
Mrs. Pat Criscione  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Cummings  
Wil & Vickey Deslauriers  
Dr. & Mrs. Roger C. Dunham  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dunsmuir  
Ms. Sara Endicott  
Mr. Olaf Erber  
& Ms. Yvonne Bramhoff  
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Fay  
Mr. Richard Fowle  
& Mrs. Virginia Brooke  
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Freeman  
Mr. & Mrs. Edmond V. Fry  
Ms. Gloria Gammell  
& Ms. Janice Ruffner  
Mrs. Cynthia Garife  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Gault  
Mr. Vincent Geiszler  
Ms. Vicki Godlewski  
Ms. Angie Gomez  
Ms. Patricia Gonzales  
Ms. Nancy L. Goodman  
Ms. Samantha D. Green  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Grissom  
Ms. Jill Hall  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Hall  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred C. Harlow  
Dr. Jeff Harris  
Mr. Maury H. Hayashida  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hoffman  
Miss Molly Houston  
Miss Lisa Infante  
Mr. Alex Jegottka,  
Groundwater Solutions, Inc.  
Ms. Margaret J. Jose  
Mr. Shel Kaganoff  
Mrs. Nancy Karger

Mrs. Cindy Kemp  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Kempster  
Ms. Kimberlee Keswick  
Mr. & Mrs. William L. Kimsey  
Dr. & Mrs. J. Philip Kistler  
Dr. Alex Koper  
Ms. Dianne Krahenbuhl  
Mr. & Mrs. George L. Lambert  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Lapman  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Lepore  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Level  
Mr. & Mrs. David Lewis  
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Lievers  
Dr. Martha Llopez  
Ms. Tree Lockie  
Miss Marcia Lunde  
Ms. Marsha B.L. MacDonald  
& Mr. John O'Brien  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas H. Mack  
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Mr. Brett DeForest Maxfield  
Ms. Claire McQueeney  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Mikeska  
Ms. Dawn Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Connie Munsey  
Mr. & Mrs. W.R. Nielsen  
Mrs. Karen Patterson  
Miss Kristi L. Pelt  
Mrs. Pat Pillow  
Ms. Nicole Piscionere  
Ms. Susan Price  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark T. Pritchard  
Ms. Sharon Pyne  
Mrs. Amelia Quadri  
Ms. Julia Rabe  
Mrs. Kathryn Rakness  
Mr. & Mrs. James G. Regan  
Paul Reyburn & Beth Lyon  
Mr. & Mrs. William Richman  
Ms. Patty Riley & Ms. Jenevieve Riley  
Ms. Maryann Rinsch  
Ms. Casandra Rose  
Ms. Susan Rose  
Ms. Diane Roth  
& Mr. Alex Lambrous  
Mr. & Mrs. David Rundle  
Mr. & Mrs. William Russell  
Mr. & Mrs. Sheldon Sanov  
Mr. & Mrs. Fernand Sarrat  
Ms. Simone Schapker  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Schepanovich  
Ms. Patricia Schuette  
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Mr. & Mrs. Mark Weber  
Ms. Judy Weiner  
Mr. Tom Weisel  
Mrs. Valerie Williams  
Mr. Chris Woods  
Susan Woodward  
Mr. David H. Yakobian

*Continued on page 18*

## Members Who Have Increased Their Level of Support February, March and April 2003

### LEVEL II

Mr. Mike Avenali  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Bowey  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Closson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Constance  
Judge & Mrs. John G. Davies  
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Fried  
Mr. Richard A. Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Merrill L. Nash  
Mr. & Mrs. Kilburn H. Roby  
Dr. & Mrs. Lester Saft  
Ms. Lisa Vitale

### LEVEL III

Mr. Victor K. Atkins, Jr.  
Ms. Sally Spencer

### LEVEL IV

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gilson  
Ms. Jennifer J. Horinek



Continued from page 17

## LEVEL II

Dr. John C. Arguelles  
Mr. Robert Barker  
Mr. & Mrs. George Begg  
Mr. & Mrs. Vance Belloni  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Berkus  
Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Bloomingdale  
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Mr. Peter Mercurio  
& Dr. Claire Mercurio  
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Ms. Delia Moon  
& Ms. Jaclyn Henretig  
Ms. Mary T. O'Toole  
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Mr. & Mrs. Alden Orput  
Ms. Linda Oskam  
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Mr. & Mrs. Cam Shaar  
Mr. & Mrs. John Spatafore  
Ms. Nancy Tolivar  
Ms. Mary Lou Weidlich  
Mr. & Mrs. Jules Weinsleder  
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Wilkinson  
Ms. Linda Woodcock  
Mr. Arthur Yahn

## LEVEL III

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Mr. & Mrs. Craig Shelburne  
Ms. Stella Zadeh & Mr. David L. Gersh

## LEVEL IV

Mr. & Mrs. John Mackall  
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin O'Connor  
Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Rice, III

# Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

February, March and April 2003

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Mr. & Mrs. Frank Fujii  
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Thomas & Nancy Crawford, Jr.  
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## SPONSOR OF CREATIVITY & INNOVATION— THE WONDERFUL HATS OF MADAME WALSKA

Carol L. Valentine

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The John Percival & Mary C.  
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Mr. & Mrs. Merrill L. Nash  
Mr. Verne L. Oliver  
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Somdahl  
Ms. Christie William

## GIFTS OF HONOR

Ms. Mary M. Denny in appreciation  
of Trustee Anne Jones  
Mrs. Joanie Lenz in appreciation  
of a Lori Meschler tour

## DONATED PAINTING "TOPIARY GARDEN AT LOTUSLAND"

Astrid Preston



Topiary Garden  
at Lotusland,  
painted by  
Astrid Preston



## 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

**Lakes to Table Top Fountains** With BARBARA DOBBINS DAVIES  
Friday, August 8, 2003 • 2:00 TO 4:30 PM • \$35/members • \$40/nonmembers  
INCLUDES LECTURE, WORKSHOP, AND REFRESHMENTS

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

**Success with Water Plants** With DAVID CURTRIGHT  
Friday, August 15, 2003 • 2:00 TO 4:30 PM • \$35/members • \$40/nonmembers  
INCLUDES LECTURE, WORKSHOP, AND REFRESHMENTS

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

**Save by Signing Up for Both Aquatic Lectures/Demonstrations**  
\$60/members • \$70/nonmembers

INCLUDES BOTH LECTURES, BOTH WORKSHOPS, AND REFRESHMENTS

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

### LotusFest

Saturday, August 9, 2003 • 10:00 AM TO 4:30 PM • \$75/members • \$85/nonmembers  
INCLUDES VALET PARKING, BUFFET LUNCHEON, WINE TASTING, SPECIAL LOTUSFEST WINE GLASS, AND ENTERTAINMENT

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

### Garden Tour With VIRGINIA HAYES

Saturday, August 16, 2003 • 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM • \$85/members • \$95/nonmembers  
INCLUDES LUNCH AND DELUXE COACH TRANSPORTATION FROM LOTUSLAND

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

## 2003 Member Events

MANY LOTUSLAND EVENTS are open to nonmembers, so please let your friends and neighbors know about the great activities we offer. Children are welcome at many events, and Family Tour Days are every Thursday and the second Saturday of each month (see the last item in the listing). We hope you continue to enjoy the year 2003 at Lotusland.

### Saturday, July 19

*Self-guided Tours for All Members*

1:30–4:30 PM

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

### Sunday, July 27

*Lotusland Celebrates*

*Alice in Lotusland*

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



# Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation

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## 2003 Member Events

*Continued*

### Friday, August 8

*Aquatic Lecture Series*  
*Lakes to Table Top Fountains:*  
*Planning Your Water Garden*  
*from Large to Small with*  
*Barbara Dobbins Davies*

2:00–4:30 PM

(GATE OPENS AT 1:00 PM)

See description on page 10 and  
use coupon on page 19 to sign up.

### Saturday, August 9

*LotusFest*

10:00 AM–4:30 PM

See description on page 11 and  
use coupon on page 19 to sign up.

### Friday, August 15

*Aquatic Lecture Series*  
*Success with Water Plants*  
*with David Curtright*

2:00–4:30 PM

(GATE OPENS AT 1:00 PM)

See description on page 10 and  
use coupon on page 19 to sign up.

### Saturday, August 16

*Garden Tour with Virginia Hayes*  
9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Tour of local private gardens with  
a wide variety of styles of water  
features. See description on page  
11 and use coupon on page 19  
to sign up.

### Saturday, August 23

*Self-guided Tours for All Members*  
10:00 AM–12:30 PM

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

### Saturday, November 15

*Japanese Garden Aesthetic*  
*Pruning Workshop with Lotusland*  
*Japanese Garden Specialists*  
2:00–4:00 PM

Aesthetic pruning techniques  
are applied to Japanese maples  
and black pines in Lotusland's  
Japanese garden to create beautiful  
pieces of living sculpture. This  
hands-on workshop focuses on  
pines and offers an opportunity  
to learn methods used by our  
highly skilled garden specialists.  
Watch for details of this workshop  
in the *Fall Newsletter for Members*.

### November 15

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

### Saturday, December 6

*Holiday shopping and*  
*Self-guided Tours*

1:30–4:30 PM

Members \$15 or free admission  
pass; nonmembers \$20. Beginning  
October 1, call 969-9990 for  
reservations 9 AM–NOON, M–F.



### Family Tours

Family tours for all ages are  
offered every Thursday at 10:00 AM  
and 1:30 PM and the second Satur-  
day of each month at 10 AM and  
1:30 PM (except between Novem-  
ber 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.