



Welcoming Our New Executive Director

By STEVEN TIMBROOK

IN JULY 2004, I informed Lotusland's Board of Trustees of my intention to retire at the end of 2005. Eighteen months may seem like very long notice, but it allowed plenty of time to make a thorough search for the person who would be Lotusland's second Executive Director. A Search Committee of several Trustees, with the assistance of a professional executive search consultant, refined the description of the position and planned the recruitment process.

From a pool of dozens of applications, the Search Committee invited the three top candidates to come to Lotusland to meet with them, our senior staff, and additional Trustees. One candidate, Mike Bush, Executive Director of Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden in Belmont, North Carolina, near Charlotte, quickly established rapport with all who met him. His enthusiasm for horticulture was apparent, and his experience with combining stunning gardens, diverse collections, and successful education programming was impressive.

Mike was asked to travel to Lotusland for a second visit, this time accompanied by his wife, Jeanne Miller. At the end of that visit, Mike was offered the position of Executive Director, and he accepted.

Let me tell you a little more about Mike's background. Born in the Catskills of New York, Mike grew up on the Gulf Coast of Florida and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Botany from the University of South

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COURTESY PHOTO

Mike Bush will arrive in Santa Barbara in mid-November to become Lotusland's second Executive Director.

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Florida in Tampa—with an emphasis on tropical biology, greenhouse management, and investigation of native flora. His passion for tropical plants led to field studies in tropical Florida, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Ecuador, and Mexico.

Mike's professional career began in 1976 at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida as Greenhouse Manager and then Super-

intendent. He moved to Oklahoma City to be the first Director of Myriad Gardens, a developing city center botanical garden featuring a large tropical conservatory. After six years at Myriad Gardens, he spent three years as Director of Bermuda Botanical Gardens before beginning his tenure at Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens, first as Director of Horticulture and for the last nine years as Executive Director. Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens is a 110-acre greenspace featuring an array of classic gardens, striking water features, a collection of plants from around the world, and twelve distinctly themed gardens. It has a devoted team of volunteers,

and the size of the budget and the number of staff members are similar to those of Lotusland.

Mike is excited about the many new opportunities and challenges at Lotusland. He will become Lotusland's Executive Director in mid-November, and I will have the remainder of the year to help familiarize him with Lotusland's operation and introduce him to his new colleagues in the Santa Barbara museum realm. I know that all the members of *Friends of Lotusland* will welcome Mike Bush and his family to Lotusland and Santa Barbara. I could not have hoped for a better replacement as I begin my experiment with retirement.

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We'll Miss You, Bill

LOTUSLAND AND THE southern California horticultural community lost a good friend with the passing at age 87 of William Paylen on June 30.

A renowned horticulturalist, Bill began his association with Lotusland in 1968 with the design and construction of the original fern garden for Madame Walska. In 1985, shortly after the Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation began operating the estate following Madame's death, Bill was consulted to design an extension of the fern garden that more than doubled its original area and to refresh the two bromeliad gardens. He continued to provide horticultural and design advice for these gardens for the rest of his life, and each new gardener who became responsible for their care received the benefit of Bill's lifetime of horticultural knowledge.

Bill was born in Java and raised on his Dutch parents' rubber, cacao, and coffee plantation. Growing up in the midst of tropical horticulture fostered a lifelong passion for lush, shady gardens. Although he spent his high school and university years in Holland training as an agricultural engineer, World War II led to the loss

of Dutch interests in Indonesia, and his parents no longer had their plantation. Bill decided to emigrate to the United States and arrived in Los Angeles in 1951. In spite of his impressive knowledge of horticulture, he started at the bottom pulling weeds at the Paul J. Howard Nursery, but soon he had his own landscape contracting business. Bill was very active in the southern California horticultural scene, and it wasn't long before he was asked to design gardens, which became the main focus of his business.

My favorite story from Bill dates back to his first commission for Madame Walska when he was designing her fern garden. Bill knew her reputation as a difficult client who was famous for getting her own way. When the first truckload of boulders for the new fern garden was delivered, Madame called Bill and told him, "I don't like them." His response set the tone for their relationship right away when he told her, "Madame, you will like them." She did, and for many years to come, Lotusland's visitors will also enjoy Bill's legacy at Lotusland.

—Steven Timbrook

NEW TO THE COLLECTIONS

Bioswale

THE FIRST PHASE of a comprehensive plan to control storm runoff was completed early this summer. By regrading and paving the service road that runs through the fruit orchard and then parallels Ashley Road inside the eastern fence line, much of the water that falls on that side of the property now safely makes its way to the storm drain on Sycamore Canyon Road, and the all-weather surface allows more efficient use by work vehicles. Curbs along the new pavement channel the water along this course and keep it from flooding the garden, as it has done in every significant rainstorm in the past. In order to meet County Water Agency requirements, the water is also treated to remove silt and any possible pollutants from the road surface itself by passing it through a vegetated swale before it exits the property.

Often called bioswales, these open channels are being increasingly used to filter rainwater from roofs or paved surfaces. In many cases, they act like mechanical screens to trap silt and debris. But in other cases, such as some roofs that birds use as perches, their activity in removing nitrogen-enriched rainwater from their droppings is more biological.

Plants used in such channels need to have several specific qualities. They must be strongly rooted in the swale to withstand the force of water rushing through them and be able to survive these periods of inundation. They must also be able to persist during the long, dry summer with little or no supplemental irrigation. A look to natural ecosystems such as rivers and streams provides some likely candidates in the form of sedges and rushes. These plants, in several different genera, form dense mats of roots and have adaptations to thrive in aquatic situations. Many have evolved to survive prolonged



VIRGINIA HAYES

Tufts of Carex and Juncus are taking root in the new bioswale before the new asphalt road delivers rainwater surplus from this winter's storms.

dry periods that occur due to seasonal fluctuations of the watercourse. From this group, three species were chosen to vegetate the new bioswale at Lotusland.

California gray rush, *Juncus patens*, forms tight clumps of fine grass-like leaves. Like all rushes, these leaves are hollow, allowing for gas exchange even when most of the plant may be underwater. Plants in the genus *Carex* are also often found in aquatic or near-aquatic systems. Blue sedge, *C. glauca*, is a low-growing species that spreads by underground stems to form a dense groundcover, and

New Zealand bush sedge, *C. solandri*, forms dense clumps and reseeds readily. These three species have been interplanted along the bottom and sides of the 100-foot long swale that terminates at the open storm drain channel. Water running down the new road must enter the bioswale and flow along its entire length before exiting into the storm drain.

While not visible from public parts of the garden, the bioswale will be doing its job efficiently to prevent pollutants from entering our coast in keeping with Lotusland's commitment to sustainability. —Virginia Hayes

IN MEMORIAM

Edward Stepanek

LOTUSLAND LOST A good friend when Trustee Ed Stepanek passed away on June 23.

Ed was welcomed as a new Trustee in 2004, and his contributions belie his short tenure on the board. We are grateful for the wise counsel

and hard work that Ed contributed as an active member of the finance, long-term planning and facilities committees.

Those of us who worked with or knew Ed will miss him.

—Steven Timbrook



Volunteer Profile: Maija-Lisa Pekkanen

A FINN FIT FOR LOTUSLAND



CONNIE BUXTON

Maija-Lisa Pekkanen

MAIJA-LISA PEKKANEN is a Garden Shop Associate whose warmth and knowledge have made visitors feel welcome since we opened to the public in 1993. Garden Shop volunteers greet visitors and share information about

Garden Shop merchandise, the garden and its history, Lotusland events, and the benefits of membership in *Friends of Lotusland*.

Although born in Detroit, when she was just two years old Maija moved with her family back to their native Finland where she spent her childhood and young adulthood. Maija's husband served in the ski patrol during World War II, but they "felt there was not much to look forward to in Finland after the war" so they decided to move to the United States. Since she was a U.S. citizen, Maija was able to receive permission for her husband to immigrate to the states, and she later brought her parents from Finland to settle here for the second time.

They discovered Santa Barbara through friends who said they had found the "perfect spot" to live. Maija worked for the County of Santa Barbara in the Probation Department for 26 years, and her husband, now deceased, was the first building

inspector for Carpinteria. Maija is fortunate to have her daughter and two grandchildren live near her in Carpinteria, and her son lives in Santa Barbara.

Maija swims at the Montecito YMCA twice a week in addition to her fitness routine of weightlifting three times a week, participating in a stretching class once a week, and a "Mindful Body" class once or twice a week. When she isn't working out at the "Y", she's walking her dog on the Carpinteria bluffs.

Maija says she loves arriving at Lotusland and taking in the beauty of the setting. The Japanese and cycad gardens are her favorites, and she loves the lotuses. Maija says she truly enjoys all the people—who she calls the "beautiful people"—that she comes into contact with at Lotusland. Those of us lucky enough to work with Maija definitely feel the same way about her.

Thank you, Maija, for all you do for Lotusland. —Connie Buxton

Autumn Crafts Workshop for Kids

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

10:00 AM TO NOON

JOIN LOTUSLAND'S Volunteer Coordinator Debbie Hild in creating fun and imaginative craft projects using an array of unusual Lotusland plant material.

Debbie was a high school art teacher for many years and has created a wide variety of crafts projects using various mediums. For this special workshop, she is conjuring up some great projects for kids to make for gifts or display.

This first-time workshop is definitely hands-on and is limited to just 15 kids so that each will have a high-quality, interactive experience with plenty of attention from our workshop leader and assistants.

Children aged 8 to 12 are welcome and must be accompanied by one adult per child. The admission fee is \$20 per child.

As space is limited, please register early by using the coupon on page 15.

Special Benefit for Upper Level Members

TRUSTEE SANDI NICHOLSON and her husband Bill graciously opened their Montecito estate, Solana, for a special event for upper level Lotusland supporters on September 8. More than 75 members enjoyed delicious wine from the Nicholson's wine collection and delectable hors d'oeuvres from the Four Seasons Biltmore.

Lotusland Curator Virginia Hayes provided a tour of the water gardens, while Eric Nagelmann showed guests the Asian Tree Grove that he designed, and Dan Bifano talked about the gorgeous roses in bloom all over the property. The view from the terrace to the Rincon and Santa Barbara Harbor was breathtaking. An added pleasure was the opportunity for guests to stroll through the Nicholson's

home and see their extraordinary collection of art and antiques. All those who attended were so appreciative of

both the Nicholson's and Lotusland for providing such a wonderful experience. —Anne Dewey



WM. B. DEWEY

A group of guests paused at Solana's beautiful water gardens to marvel at the water lilies and papyruses and to enjoy the stunning view.



Enjoying this special event are Bob Veloz and Honorary Lifetime Trustee Carol Valentine, with hosts Trustee Sandi Nicholson and her husband Bill.



The view from the east patio of Solana was beautiful, and the food and wine were delicious. Enjoying all three are Trustee Geoff Crane, his wife Kim, Christine Newhauser, and Ozzie DaRos.

Junior Docents Graduate



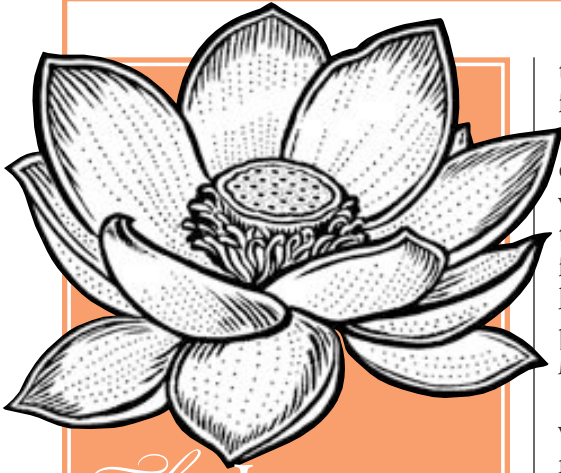
CONNIE BUXTON

AUBREY CAZABAT (LEFT) FROM Santa Barbara Charter Middle School, Christiana Pollock-Lyman (MIDDLE), who is home schooled, and Steven Tufenkian (RIGHT) from Goleta Valley Junior High recently completed a five-week training course where they learned about the plants and garden features of Lotusland and how to interpret the garden to schoolchildren.

After passing an evaluation tour,

they have become "Junior Docents" at Lotusland and will assist in leading student tours of the garden during the school year.

This program is open to middle and high school students and can serve as community service credit. For more information about the program, please contact Connie Buxton, Lotusland Director of Public Programs, at 969-3767, extension 107, or e-mail cbuxton@lotusland.org.



The LOTUS SOCIETY

FROM PINK WALLS TO PINK CADILLACS

OVER THE COURSE of the last few years I have had the privilege of interviewing several members of *The Lotus Society* to prepare profiles of them for Lotusland's *Newsletter for Members*. Some I've known through their association with Lotusland as volunteers, which makes it rather easy to get a conversation going that will lead to learning more about their lives and interests. With those I may not know so well, or at all, I try to have a couple of questions ready to break the ice.

Recently I enjoyed a morning speaking with Mary Lou Ardohain at her home in the San Roque district of Santa Barbara. By walking



Mary Lou Ardohain

COURTESY PHOTO

through the lush landscaping to her front door I knew that she is truly a plant lover. The deep violet bloom of princess flowers was striking, and when we walked into the back yard, the profusion of plants—everything from succulents to bromeliads, cycads, lots of small potted palms, and more princess flowers—confirmed that Mary Lou is definitely into plants.

Having spoken several times with Mary Lou at luncheons for members of *The Lotus Society* and a few days earlier at *LotusFest*, I knew that she has a very successful career with Mary Kay Cosmetics and enjoys travel. Nevertheless, I still opened with the standard, "How long have you lived in Santa Barbara?"

"I've lived in this house almost all my life. It was my grandparents' home, and I'm a second generation Santa Barbaran. Both my mother and father enjoyed gardening, and he was the caretaker for the Hammond Estate." It's rare enough these days to meet a native of California, let alone a Santa Barbara native. "Yes, I went to San Roque School, just down the block, and then to Bishop Diego Garcia High. I did junior year of college at the University of Hawaii, then returned to complete my degree in English Literature at UC Santa Barbara.

Mary Lou said she had always been interested in skin care and after graduating from UC Santa Barbara, she worked in the cosmetics department at Robinson's. She was so valuable to Robinson's that they agreed to give her a four-month leave to travel with a friend to Pakistan, India, Nepal, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka. Mary Lou was 28 at the time. Two young women traveling on their own to such exotic realms shows a spirit of adventure that still animates Mary Lou.

It was time for me to ask my second stock question, "When did you first visit Lotusland?" "Well, I don't know whether or not I should tell you this," she said, "but it was while I was in high school. My boyfriend had a motorcycle and he jumped it over a low spot on the pink wall

with me on the back. I wanted to get a look at the zodiac clock I'd heard about." I have to say that of all the "climbing over the pink wall" stories I've heard, this was the most adventuresome.

Thinking about the pink wall reminded me that I'd heard Mary Lou was so successful with Mary Kay Cosmetics that she'd been awarded a pink Cadillac. "I've been with Mary Kay for 20 years, and it is a wonderful company to be associated with. In fact, Harvard Business School uses *Mary Kay on People Management* as one of its textbooks. I now have 140 women on my team, about a third of them in the Santa Barbara area and the rest throughout the United States. Every 18 months, Top Directors who achieve the highest levels of performance are awarded a new pink Cadillac. The one in my garage right now is my ninth."

Pink wall to pink Cadillac, Mary Lou Ardohain is exactly the successful, interesting woman that Madame Walska would love to have known. And Lotusland is grateful to Mary Lou for her interest and generosity.

—Steven Timbrook

NEW MEMBERS

THANK YOU TO THESE additional new members for their generous support.

Margo and Jeffrey Barbakow

David and Karen Davidson

Jim and Amanda McIntyre

Amanda M. Pelch

in Remembrance of the

Edmiston-Pelch Family

Edward and Elaine Stepanek

Members of *The Lotus Society* have each made a gift or bequest of \$10,000 or more to Lotusland's Endowment Fund.

To learn more about *The Lotus Society*, or to arrange a personal consultation with an experienced estate planner on *The Lotus Society* Committee, please call Lotusland's Director of Development, Anne Dewey, at (805) 969-3767, ext. 105.



LOTUSLAND THANKS NORM AND AMANDA WAITT FOR THEIR SPONSORSHIP OF Lot-OZ-Land

NORM AND AMANDA WAITT's generous sponsorship helped make our fundraiser, *Lot-OZ-Land*, an over-the-top, wonderful party. We are also grateful to our Sustainer, the **William E. Weiss Foundation**, and to our Contributor, **U.S. Trust Company**, for providing additional funding for our sold-out gala.

Committee members **Angela Anwyl-Davies**, **Ella Brittingham**, **Anne Dewey**, **Tiffany Doré**, **Robert Emmons**, **Robin Fell**, **Kisa Heyer**, **Susan Jackson**, **Dawn Lafitte**, **Bambi Leonard**, **Jill Levinson**, **Mary Morouse**, **Sandra Nicholson**, **Valerie Rice**, **Laura Shelburne**, **Cynthia Spivey**, **Meghan Stoll**, **Amanda Waitt**, and **Lisa Wolf**—along with the creative talents of **Tamara Feller** and **Julie Collinson** of **I.D.O. Events**—produced an enchanting event.

After meeting **Dorothy** pensively singing “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” guests made their way along a debris-strewn path, the aftermath of a terrible tornado! Fortunately they soon arrived at the **Yellow Brick Road** and began their journey to the **Emerald City**. Along the way guests were entertained by singing **Munchkins** and the **Lollipop Guild**, met the **Tin Man** (who was oiled by several kind-hearted guests along the way) startled by the **Cowardly Lion** and **Scarecrow**, encouraged by **Glinda**,

the **Good Witch of the North**—and terrorized by the **Wicked Witch of the West** warning them away from the **Emerald City**. All arrived safely in the spectacular **Emerald City**, which was even greener after guests were given green-tinted eyeglasses.

Guests were seated on the main lawn at tables beautifully decorated in varying shades of green. Ruby slippers and witches' shoes were spotted among the lovely centerpieces by **Jerry Peddicord** of **S.R. Hogue & Co.** Board president **Robert Emmons** greeted guests, thanked the generous donors and talented event committee, and introduced Lotusland's two **Lifetime Honorary Trustees**, **Michael Towbes** and **Carol Valentine**. Executive Director **Steven Timbrook** thanked the local students, who played the various characters with such talent and enthusiasm, and Lotusland staff members for their part in producing this very successful event. The delicious dinner by **Village Modern Foods** was perfectly complemented by delicious wines, generously donated by **AJ and Valerie Rice** and **Kalyra and M. Brown Wineries**.

Following dinner **Sotheby's Lisa Hubbard** conducted a spirited auction for seven items from the basket of a hot air balloon.

• *I'll Get You My Pretty*. Donated by stylist to the stars **Danielle Stone**,

hair and makeup guru **Francois**, the **Peninsula Hotel** in Beverly Hills, and **Saks Fifth Avenue, Santa Barbara**.

• *Which Way Do We Go?* A one-of-a-kind replica of Lotusland's antique weathervane from **Madame Walska's chateau** in France.

• *We're Off to See the Wizard*. Dinner for ten at Lotusland with **2004 Nobel Laureate “Wizard” David Gross**, Director of UCSB's **Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics**.

• *There's No Place Like Home*. A beautiful Lotusland oil painting titled “**Evening Light at Lotusland**,” was created especially for the event and donated by the renowned plein air artist **Whitney Abbott**. **Carleton-Kirkegaard Framing** donated the beautiful frame.

• *We're Not in Kansas Anymore*. A New York City extravaganza for two. **The Lowell** donated four nights at their fabulous hotel, and the **Susan Ciminelli Day Spa** donated an amazing spa package. Other highlights include tickets to *Wicked*, delightful dining, and a behind-the-scenes tour at the **Metropolitan Museum of Art**.

• *Because, Because, Because, Because, Because...Because of the Wonderful Things Lotusland Does!* The generous winning bidder adopted the **Theatre Garden** for a year, which includes an **Emerald Garden party** for 40, hosted by Lotusland.

Continued on page 8



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Board President **Bob Emmons**, **Gabriella Salsbury**, **Chris Emmons**, Executive Director **Steve Timbrook**, **Sue Birch**, **Jan Timbrook**, **Ed Birch**, and **Sally Jordan** enjoyed the event.



LEFT TO RIGHT: **Dawn Lafitte**, **Cynthia Spivey**, and Trustees **Ella Brittingham** and **Kisa Heyer** are all hard-working members of the event committee.

PHOTOS BY NELL CAMPBELL



As guests walked along the Yellow Brick Road, they were delighted to be greeted by three singing Munchkins.



Marie Wangeman and Trustee Arthur Gaudi paused for a picture in the Emerald City.

• *Diamonds, Sapphires and Pearls, Oh My!* A very special Chinoiserie Pagoda Brooch by famed jewelry designer **Mish Twokowski** from **Mish New York**.

After the very successful auction ended, Bob Emmons introduced **Junior Docent Sunny Bruckner** who talked about Lotusland's Fourth Grade Outreach Program. Guests generously donated to the program using the envelopes on the table.

Delightful as the evening was, there's still no place like home...so at sunset guests clicked their heels and left the Emerald City. As a last surprise, a melting witch and flying monkeys entertained them, and Dorothy gave everyone a rainbow lollipop.

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

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Palmer Jackson, Jr., event committee member Susan Jackson, Laurel Barrack, and Michelle and Craig Taylor enjoyed the festivities.



Trustee Meryll Brown, Chari Coryat, Monica Kunz, and Lisa Johnston made it safely along the Yellow Brick Road to the sold-out gala.



The Scarecrow repeatedly asked guests if anyone had seen his brain—but to no avail.



Jeanne Thayer and Virginia Ridder enjoyed hors d'oeuvres on the main lawn before dinner in the spectacular Emerald City.

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Four picture-perfect moms-to-be—Sarice Silverberg, event committee member Jill Levinson, Alix Rabinowitz, and Kate Gura—stopped for a photo.



Lizzie and Brent Peus and Lisa and Bryan Babcock savored the delicious dinner catered by Village Modern Foods, complemented by Kalyra and M. Brown wines.

LotusFest!

LOTUSFEST TOOK PLACE on August 13 during the peak of the blooming season for Lotusland's namesake. Guests spent an enjoyable afternoon in the garden sampling premium wines provided by Santa Barbara County's finest vintners and enjoying **Fresco's** delicious buffet luncheon. The **Steve Shelton Trio's** mellow jazz soothed the soul, while Ikebana displays and Lotus Lore Galore delighted guests. Local artist **Mara Abboud**, whose beautiful artwork graced the event invitation, generously provided and signed posters with the same design for delighted guests. A very special thank you goes to Mara, **Ikenobo Ikebana**, and our vintners: **Au Bon Climat**, **Bedford Thompson Winery & Vineyard**, **Carina Cellars**, **Consilience**, **Flying Goat Cellars**, **Foxen Vineyard**, **J. Kerr Wines**, **Jaffurs Wine Cellars**, **La Fond Winery**, **Qupé**, **Santa Barbara Winery**, **Sausalito Canyon**, **Stolpman Vineyards**, **Summerland Winery**, and **Whitcraft Winery**.

—Connie Buxton



Beloved community leader Silvio DiLoreto enjoyed the festivities with guest Mary MacDonald.



Jaffurs Wine Cellars was represented by husband and wife team Craig Jaffurs and award-winning author Lee Wardlaw.



Local artist Mara Abboud delighted guests by signing beautiful posters depicting her painting "Sanctuary" used for the invitation.



Norm Yost, owner of Flying Goat Cellars, displayed a framed photo of his two pet goats for all to enjoy.



Au Bon Climat and Qupé were represented by Rob Fry, Sales and Marketing Director for both wineries.



This cheerful female foursome delighted in the festive mood enhanced by brightly colored table coverings and a sumptuous buffet luncheon.



John Kerr, owner of J. Kerr Wines, pours one of his premium wines for a satisfied customer.



Jan Timbrook, Kent Wood, and Kent's wife, Trustee Nancy Wood, enjoy sampling the delicious wines.



David Hardee, owner of Carina Cellars, pours wine for two appreciative guests at LotusFest!

Twilight Time at Lotusland A Spirited Evening

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29
3:30 PM TO SUNSET

Twilight Time at Lotusland is absolutely bewitching—especially at this time of the year. Let the garden cast its spell upon you as shadows lengthen in the waning light of autumn.

You're guaranteed to have a frightfully good time, but beware!

Visitors must vanish at sunset: 6:08 PM.

Wine, witches' brew, and devilishly delicious hors d'oeuvres will be served on the terrace at the top of the main lawn. Please specify whether you would like a docent-led or self-guided tour when you make your reservation for this spooky soiree.

Space is limited, so reserve early or you won't have a ghost of a chance.

Please use the coupon on page 15 to register or call 969-9990.

Shelley Frank

LOTUSLAND'S SUMMER INTERN

SHELLEY FRANK, LOTUSLAND'S 2005 sustainable horticulture resident summer intern, is in her third year of a three-year program at the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture and Botanical Gardens in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. The School of Horticulture is a three-year full-time horticulture diploma program that features a blend of academic studies and practical work experience offered onsite at the 99-acre Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens. Shelley's internship at Lotusland fulfilled a curriculum requirement for her studies at Niagara and provided practical experience in methods of sustainable horticulture as practiced at Lotusland.

Beginning in June, Shelley worked with John Lafleur, Lotusland's Plant Healthcare Coordinator, who presented an overview of sustainable horticulture and explained concepts and their practical applications at Lotusland. Shelley participated in extensive plant health care monitoring and learned the importance of recording observations on a regular basis. She conducted earthworm counts, soil compaction tests, soil percolation tests, nitrate tests, and pH tests. In addition, she entered data into Excel, participated in analyses of test results, brewed compost tea, applied compost tea and *Trichoderma* for disease management, and released bio-control organisms to help control western flower thrips. She learned the concepts of fertigation and serviced the fertigation units and participated in the planning, plant acquisition, and planting of a bio-swale designed to reduce storm runoff on the Lotusland property.

In mid-June Shelley joined our Curator, Virginia Hayes, at the annual meeting of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta in Chicago, Illinois. This provided a valuable learning and networking experience.

Our thanks to Shelley Frank for



STEVEN TIMBROOK

Shelley Frank and John Lafleur release predatory mites and pirate bugs from Rincon-Vitova Insectaries to control western flower thrips in the rose garden. Biological controls are an important part of Lotusland's plant health care program.

all her hard work. It was a great summer!

—Mike Iven



THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM at Lotusland is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for any student. To study in a garden, which is known around the world for the completeness and beauty of its collections, and to take part in the award-winning sustainable plant healthcare program creates a potential for learning that is huge.

I definitely learned a lot over the course of my 10-week summer internship. Working with John Lafleur, I was able to take part in Lotusland's sustainable management program. This opportunity has opened my mind to the challenges of sustainable gardening and the dedication required carrying out such a program. I believe that gaining this experience is going to prove to be invaluable as I begin my career in horticulture. The call for sustainable practices is growing stronger and gaining recognition, and with my newly acquired skills, I will be able to make a positive contribution to the field.

My immersion into rare, exotic plants has been a fantastic learning experience. Coming from northern

Canada, the chance to see and work among Mediterranean and tropical plants, previously known to me as houseplants, has been amazing. The collections at Lotusland offer the chance to study many of the main genera of interesting and rare plants at the same time. This is a rare opportunity in itself, for how else could a student see and study such a complete collection of cycads without traveling to Africa or Australia?

The same can be said for the bromeliad collection or the aloes. The internship program at Lotusland offers students the chance to see plants that they might not ever see otherwise.

I am very thankful to the Marisla Foundation for their part in funding this internship. It truly was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I believe that all future interns will benefit greatly from the program as it offers opportunities that can't be offered by other institutions, and the knowledge and experience that is gained over the summer is invaluable. I hope that the internship program will continue to be supported so future interns may have the same wonderful experience that I had.

—Shelley Frank

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We Welcome New Members Who Joined in June, July, and August 2005

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Continued on page 14



Fall is definitely in the air at Lotusland's Garden Shop. It's full of decorative and useful items for your home and garden—unusual pumpkins, chickens, spiders, crows, witches, gourds, lanterns, beautiful dried leaves, and lots of other eye-catching merchandise.

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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

Autumn Twilight Tour

Saturday, October 29, 2005 • 3:30 PM TO SUNSET

\$30 EACH OR ONE MEMBER PASS PLUS \$15

CHECK ONE: Guided tour Self-guided tour

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

Autumn Crafts Workshop for Kids

Saturday, November 5, 2005 • 10:00 AM TO NOON

\$20 PER CHILD

Number of adults accompanying children _____

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

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2005 Fall Member Events

Saturday, October 29

Autumn Twilight Tour

3:30 PM–SUNSET

Please see details on page 11 and use coupon on page 15 to register.

Saturday, November 5

Autumn Crafts Workshop for Kids

10:00 AM–NOON

Please see details on page 4 and use coupon on page 15 to register.

November 12

Last day of regular tours before garden is closed until February 15, 2006.

Family Tours

Family tours for all ages are offered every Thursday at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM and the second Saturday of each month at 10 AM and 1:30 PM (except between November 13 and February 14). Family tours are child and parent friendly and are separate from regular adult tours. Adult members \$15 or use admission passes; children under ten \$8; children under two free. Call 969-9990 for reservations 9 AM–NOON, M–F.

Holiday Shopping and Self-Guided Tours

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 3

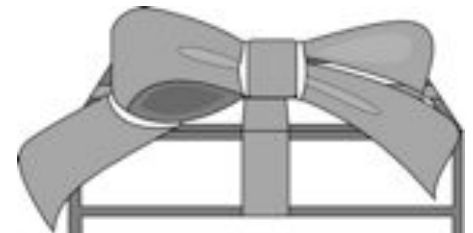
1:30 TO 4:30 PM

Our Garden Shop is the perfect place to buy gifts—from stocking stuffers to fabulous plants and decorative items for your home and garden.

Refreshments will be served in the Main House.

Members \$15 or use a member pass.

Reservations are required and may be made by calling Visitor Services at (805) 969-9990, 9 AM to NOON, M–F.



Gift Membership

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

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