



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS  VOLUME 14 NO. 2  SPRING 2005

Gunnar Thielst: Madame Walska's Right-Hand Man

By VIRGINIA HAYES

IN THE EARLY YEARS of Madame Walska's development of the gardens at Lotusland she struggled to find the right kind of help in realizing her creation. In 1956 she writes, "But unfortunately it is not yet my destiny to have a responsible person in Lotusland, and it has lasted so long that I have lost hope even." In her letters to friends this sort of lament was often repeated. But if she couldn't find the kind of horticulturist she desired, she definitely found in Gunnar Thielst the support she needed to keep the infrastructure of the estate on an even keel. His many talents made him an indispensable member of her permanent staff.

The projects that Thielst accomplished for Madame Walska ranged from the sublime to the mundane. One that he was particularly proud of was the creation of the zodiac symbols that marked the hours on the horticultural clock. He spoke of them as "one of my best jobs." And because some of them were stolen repeatedly, he was required to craft them more than once. His other accomplishments were to paint the custom cushions in the theatre garden, giving them an antique patina, and mount and frame many of the tile murals. Interspersed with these artistic endeavors were the chores of patching leaky roofs, plastering and painting walls in various buildings, hanging stained glass and Tibetan banners in the house, mending broken umbrellas,

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF THIELST FAMILY ARCHIVES

Thielst fashioned shallow copper trays that were filled with colored gravel to announce the date at special garden events.

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crafting stands to hold the bronze cranes in the pond and much more. His repair skills were tested on such various ornaments as the wooden carousel animals and stone statues, delicate items like antique tortoise-shell jewelry boxes, and irrigation systems and leaky toilets. Some of these damaged goods were just the result of normal wear and tear, while others were perpetrated by vandals. As Thielst characterized it, "that was all during the hippie period" and his job was to walk the grounds each

day and "report what was needed, what was to be done and what was ruined and so forth." In one such incident in 1961, grotesques were knocked down and arms broken, the massive globes that stand at the entrance to the blue garden were pulled from their plinths, and some topiaries were uprooted.

Besides physical repairs and building projects, Thielst and Madame Walska made many trips to nurseries in southern California in search of plants. Thielst himself had a small nursery at his ironwork studio and supplied her with bromeliads, cacti, ferns and more. Thielst designed and built the 16-sided greenhouse in 1963 as well as two additional glass houses in the following years. He built the first of these for the orchid collection that was his particular love. A few years later the second one was added for cactus and succulents. The greenhouses continued to be Thielst's responsibility until the 1970s.

Thielst, a native of Denmark, immigrated to California in 1927 and by the late 1930s had established an



Thielst designed and built garden furniture, such as this umbrella stand and table, at his studio in town.

ornamental ironwork shop in El Paseo (later relocated to Milpas Street). Though his specialty was wrought iron, he did other odd jobs and even held a taxidermist's license. During this period he did some work at Lotusland (then called Cuesta Linda) for the Gavits, setting some Spanish



This Scorpio is one of the original zodiac symbols that Thielst made for the horticultural clock.

WM. B. DEWEY



A 20-foot wrought iron cross that Thielst created was installed in 1949 at Mt. Calvary Monastery.

tiles they had brought back from abroad. His gates, window grills, and garden furniture appeared everywhere around town as well as across the nation. One of his most ambitious and intricate projects in Santa Barbara was an openwork cross for Mt. Calvary Monastery. This 20-foot

cross, weighing more than a ton, was dedicated in 1949 and is still standing in the courtyard of the complex off Gibraltar Road.

During World War II, Thielst was called on to teach welding skills to Navy recruits, and he spent some months inspecting the welding and laying of 480 miles of gas pipeline just below the Arctic circle. It was around this time he completed his first project for Madame Walska repairing pictures that were made of semi-precious stones. Another customer, who had taken similar work to him before, had referred Madame Walska to Thielst. She had also been forewarned that Thielst was a bit eccentric and that only "if he likes you, he lets you in." She was pleased to pass muster and soon was bringing more of her business to him. One such repair job was an antique wrought iron gate. Although Madame Walska expressed her doubts that he would be able to fix it and have it continue to look old, Thielst solved the problem by mending the piece and then taking it down to the



Thielst among tall spikes of tower of jewels (Echium wildpretii) in his garden at the "red cottage."

beach for a good soaking in the saltwater so it was uniformly rusted when she saw it. By degrees, Madame Walska came to depend on Thielst for advice on many things and help with the maintenance of Lotusland. Though he continued to design ornamental ironwork, he was increasingly occupied with her projects and eventually closed his shop in town.

By 1964 she was insisting that he and his wife Louisa come to live on the property where he would be immediately available to her at all times. In spite of their contentment in their new home, in 1965 they were persuaded to move into the "red cottage" that Thielst had remodeled and expanded. Both became a part of Madame Walska's daily life. In fact, Gunnar recalled, "I did not have a vacation for five years. I could not go to town unless I phoned. She wanted me and my wife here!" The telephone calls from her came at all hours. "Mr. Thielst! S.O.S!" would be her cry and Thielst would immediately respond.

As with many people who worked with Madame Walska, there were ups and downs to their relationship. Thielst was fired and rehired with some regularity. He

Continued on page 4



Detail of an iron gate that Thielst fashioned for Lotusland's "red cottage," where he and his family lived.



Continued from page 3

always took it in stride until one time, not only did Madame tell him he was fired, she demanded all her keys back. To keep food on the table and a roof overhead, Thielst accepted a commission to craft gates and other ironwork for Rancho San Fernando Rey in the Santa Ynez valley. He took some pleasure in telling Madame Walska when she finally called to ask him back that he had “a full-time job” and couldn’t come to her at that time. Of course, her persistence and his love of Lotusland soon brought them back together.

Thielst’s involvement with the day-to-day operations at Lotusland lessened when Charles Glass and Bob Foster began directing the garden planning and planting. But he remained faithful to Madame Walska and recalled that even late in the 1970s as she became less able to

work in the garden herself, “She was bright; she kept an eye on everything.” He was among the few who were trusted to take her out in her wheelchair and show her the

garden. As Thielst recalled their relationship in 1986 (after his retirement and her death), “We became friends. Deep, sincere friends. She trusted me most of all.”



Madame Walska (CENTER) and Gunnar Thielst (RIGHT) entertain a visitor from Thielst’s native Denmark.

Garden Tours with Virginia Hayes

SATURDAY, APRIL 23 AND SATURDAY, JUNE 4 • 9:15 AM TO 4:00 PM (GATES OPEN AT 9:00 AM)

IT’S BEEN A TOUGH winter in gardens all over the southland, but spring is here and plants are burgeoning with new growth and bright flowers. The damage from record-breaking rains has been repaired, and paths and borders have been spruced up for our pleasure. Once again, Curator Virginia Hayes has organized a slate of stellar gardens to visit. Some will be small and intimate, while a few grandiose designs are also included. All will serve to arouse our senses and inspire the gardener within.

These popular tours (different gardens each date) are being held on Saturday, April 23rd and Saturday, June 4th. Space for both is limited and to make sure everyone has an equal opportunity to sign up for them, registration is by coupon only (see page 15).

Coupons will be selected at random on Monday, April 11th and Monday, May 16th for the available

spaces in each tour. The cost is \$85 for Lotusland members, \$95 for non-members, and covers admission to Lotusland, bus transportation to the gardens, and a delicious lunch (one

member pass may be used as partial payment for each individual reservation). Gates open at 9:00 AM and the bus leaves promptly at 9:15, returning by 4:00 PM.

SAVE THE DATE LotusFest!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13 ■ NOON TO 4:00 PM

Come celebrate the legendary flower
that is Lotusland’s namesake.

Wine tasting from Santa Barbara County premier vintners, live jazz, and a scrumptious *al fresco* buffet luncheon are just a few of the pleasures that will be offered during this fun, relaxing afternoon in the garden.

So mark your calendar and join us for this very special event.
Invitations will be mailed in July.

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

The City College Connection

STUDENTS ENROLLED in the Environmental Horticulture (EH) program at Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) earn units of credit for working in paid or volunteer positions that provide on-the-job experience and the opportunity to apply skills and knowledge learned in SBCC classes. Lotusland began offering part-time paid positions to Environmental Horticulture Work Experience students in the mid-1980s and has continued that practice uninterrupted through the years. Five thousand dollars provides one student a semester of Work Experience. Donations to support Work Experience, Lotusland's oldest educational program, make the program possible.

Work Experience students perform a variety of tasks at Lotusland. Over the course of a semester, a student will work in all areas of the garden helping the grounds staff with routine landscape maintenance tasks. Sustainable plant health care

practices employed at Lotusland are explained, and students perform specific applications based on those principles. A serious effort is made to include students in special projects and other timely tasks that may occur over the course of the semester. The Lotusland-SBCC connection is certainly a two-way street as students learn practical skills based on their studies and Lotusland benefits from their enthusiasm and much appreciated help.

Anyone may enroll in the EH classes; however, the EH program is designed to prepare students for employment in some aspect of the "green industry." Many past and present members of Lotusland's grounds staff either completed the EH program or took selected EH classes. Lotusland has benefited directly and is pleased to participate in the EH program by providing positions to motivated and interested students.

—Mike Iven

offers has been a priceless extension of my education. I have been able to attain my goals in the field, as well as put my competencies to use. A day at Lotusland may be a mixture of mulching, weed eradication, pruning or pathway repair; however, whatever it may be, I know these skills will carry me to my higher education and through my lifetime."



JEFF GALLUP

"Hi. MY NAME IS Jeff Gallup and I just started working at Lotusland in February. I have lived in Santa Barbara my entire life. Plants have always been part of life for me because my father was in the nursery business in Carpinteria. I am especially interested in palm trees and have been germinating different species for the last couple of years. When I heard about the opportunity to be able to work at Lotusland, I jumped at the chance, and here I am. In the short period of time I have been here, I have learned more about Japanese gardens, transplanting water lilies, and how to drive a tractor than I ever had learned in the past. Everyone at Lotusland is very helpful and friendly, which makes it a lot of fun to be here. I hope to be able to learn much more from all of the different gardeners."

SPRING 2005 WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS



PHOTOS BY MIKE IVEN

EIRIN BAERIS

"BEFORE ATTAINING my masters in Landscape Architecture, I want to get a horticultural base and background for my field. Having the opportunity to integrate my studies at school with experiences at Lotusland has been

invaluable. The EH program advocates horticultural practices using a sustainable approach. Lotusland is a thriving example of how the ideas the EH program promotes can succeed in the real world. Being able to have the hands-on approach that Lotusland

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

The Plant Petting Zoo

EACH YEAR FOURTH GRADE classes from local schools are involved in Lotusland's Outreach Program, which includes an introductory lesson in the classroom followed by a tour of Lotusland. On their tour, students are able to see and learn about the garden's many unusual plants, but touching them was strictly off-limits. A new feature recently installed in the Butterfly Garden opens up an opportunity for these children to have some hands-on interaction with the plants.

This new attraction is the Plant Petting Zoo, an area where students gather on their tour to touch, smell, and feel the plants while an outreach docent explains how the plants' unique features help them adapt to their environments. Current zoo inhabitants include several varieties of scented geraniums that release a lemon or peppermint fragrance when their leaves are rubbed, the panda plant (*Kalanchoe tomentosa*) that has soft fuzzy hairs on its leaves, and blue chalk sticks (*Senecio mandraliscae*) with its waxy cuticle that can be scraped off with a fingernail to see the true color of the plant underneath.

Also in the zoo are demonstrations of plant adaptations that cannot be seen up close during a tour in the garden. For example, water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) has air-filled leaf stalks that allow it to float on the



CONNIE BUXTON

Lotusland's new Plant Petting Zoo invites school children to get a feel for the qualities that allow plants to survive in various environments. Pictured above are fourth grade students from Peabody School enjoying a close encounter with various plants from the Petting Zoo.

water. Several of these have been cut in half so that the students can see their Styrofoam-like air pockets. A cactus stem has been cut open so that a cross-section of the interior can be seen. Alongside it is a piece of dried cactus "skeleton," which clearly shows how a network of woody cell

walls can support the heavy weight of a water-filled cactus stem.

The new zoo offers students the opportunity to interact with these interesting specimens while allowing their counterparts in the garden to grow without interference.

—Jennifer Wilbanks

Trustee Tom Hugunin Retires

LOTUSLAND IS GRATEFUL to Tom Hugunin for his diligent service as a member of the board of trustees.

Since joining the board in 2002, Tom has served as chairman of the Development Committee and as a hard-working member of both the Public Programs and *The Lotus Society* committees.

Though he is retiring from the board, we are pleased that he will continue as an active member of *The Lotus Society* Committee.



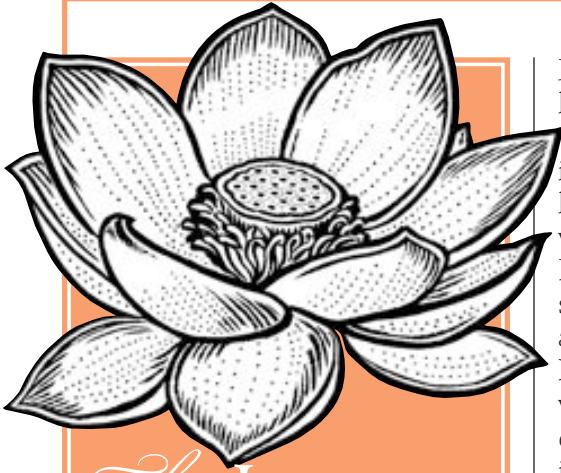
Tom Hugunin

WM. B. DEWEY



*The fuzz on the leaves of this panda plant (*Kalanchoe tomentosa*) reflects the harsh sunlight in its desert home.*

JENNIFER WILBANKS



The LOTUS SOCIETY

GEORGE BURTNES

WHEN I CALLED George Burtness a couple of months ago to see if he was willing to be interviewed for a *Lotus Society* profile, he said, "Sure, but I'm leaving tomorrow for Palau and it'll have to wait until I get back." All I knew about George was that he joined *Friends of Lotusland* in 1996 and has been a volunteer since then helping out on the grounds, and that he convinced about a dozen Santa Barbara County vintners to have wine tastings as one of the features of *LotusFest* in 2003 and *Cactus Caper* last year. I also knew he became a member of *The Lotus Society* in 2004 and has a brother,



George Burtness

STEVEN TIMBROOK

Bob, who is a retired Santa Barbara high school teacher.

George filled that sketchy picture in for me when we got together after his Pacific island trip. The first thing we talked about, of course, was the Palau trip, and I asked if he enjoyed snorkeling or scuba diving. "For about 10 years, from 1992 to 2001, I volunteered to work on projects with Stanford biologist Paul Ehrlich, everything from birds and butterflies in Costa Rica to reef fish off St. Croix. Little was known about the activities of the French Grunt. They just seemed to stay in one place on the reef all day long, not really doing anything. So, using scuba gear and lights, I followed them at night as they left the reef and learned where they fed. I've continued to be interested in reef fish and that's why I went to Palau."

I asked George where he was off to next, since it seemed clear that he enjoyed travel. "I try to do one serious trip, often with Earthwatch, and one 'fun trip' every year. Palau was a 'fun trip,' and I plan to do an Earthwatch archaeological dig near Cuzco, in Peru, later this year. I also hope to take part in a bird census trip to Las Islas Secas, off the Pacific coast of Panama, later this spring. With Earthwatch I've been on a mammoth dig for Oxford University and a study of everything that eats fruit on a research site inland from Brisbane. Some of the other 'fun trips' have been to New Zealand, which I especially like, the Antarctic, the Sea of Cortez, southern Africa, and the Seychelles Islands."

George was born in Santa Barbara, as was his centenarian mother, still doing well at 101. His late father was a Santa Barbara physician, and he has another brother, Bill, who is a retired banker. George took a B.S. degree in Psychology at Stanford and joined the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam era, serving in a communications unit in Alaska. He returned to Stanford for his M.B.A. and worked 15 years for Stanford managing the University's

real estate leases and gifts of real estate from all over the country and even abroad. He then was the administrator for a series of three small electronics firms in the Palo Alto area, returning to Santa Barbara after retiring in 1991.

George is as busy as a volunteer in retirement as he was during his career. He serves as president of the Lobero Theatre Foundation, treasurer of the Santa Barbara Zoo and chairman of the board of Sansum Diabetes Research Institute. I asked about his Lotusland volunteer interest. "I started in 1996 after talking with Janet Eastman (then Lotusland's Volunteer Coordinator.) After a couple of years working with Mike Furner and Esau Ramirez on garden maintenance projects, I joined Lynn Kirby at the Butterfly Garden and have been there ever since." I asked what it was that convinced him to make a bequest to Lotusland's endowment. "I joined *The Lotus Society* because of my love for the garden and because I wanted to help perpetuate something that Madame Walska felt so strongly about." With all George does for Lotusland, it's obvious he cares strongly about it, as well.

—Steven Timbrook

NEW MEMBERS

Thank you to these additional new members for their generous support.

The Cramblit Family Foundation

Eric Nagelmann

in memory of Betty Nagelmann

Estate of Margo F. Osherenko

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.

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

Members' Family Day

The Incredibles, Starring L

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Lotusland wishes to thank you, our members, for your support by hosting our eighth annual Members' Family Day.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

Thomas & Nancy Crawford, Jr.

Activities will include:



COURTESY PHOTO



Mark Collier performing juggling acts, board games, face-painting, caricatures, and crafts.

Dress up in costumes and take home a free silly souvenir photograph.

Live music by JT and the band.

Members' Family Day is FREE!

But you must make a reservation by mailing the reservation form to save space for your family and to purchase box lunch tickets. One vehicle per membership.

Please reserve early as we expect this event to fill quickly.

Bring your own picnic or pre-purchase box lunches catered by FRESCO.

Box lunches include a choice of chicken salad on sundried tomato bread, black forest ham and smoked mozzarella on ciabatta bread, turkey on nine-grain bread, or very vegetarian on a soft roll; fresh fruit cup; and *Sun* chips. Tickets for box lunches are available until April 25.

(Sorry, it will not be possible to buy lunch 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 2:00 PM.

Family Day Lotusland's Amazing Plants

30 • 10 AM TO 4 PM

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

SPONSORED BY:

in Honor of Their Grandchildren

will include:



COURTESY PHOTO



PHOTOS BY NELL CAMPBELL

... and magic in the theatre garden • 11:30 AM TO NOON AND 2:30 TO 3:00 PM
from the garden for children and adults • 10:00 AM TO NOON AND 2:00 TO 4:00 PM
raph by the incredible photographer extraordinaire *Bob DeBris* • 10:00 AM TO NOON AND 2:00 TO 4:00 PM
and the Zydeco Zippers on the main lawn • NOON TO 2:00 PM

RESERVATION INFORMATION: Due to the popularity of this event and to allow as many members as possible to attend, Lotusland requests **ONLY ONE VEHICLE PER MEMBERSHIP**. 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 confirmation and a map will be mailed to you upon receipt of your reservation form.**

Bring your own picnic or order prepaid box lunches below. Your box lunch tickets will be mailed with your confirmation.

RESERVATION FORM

Member Name _____ No. of adults _____ No. of children under 2 _____

Address _____ No. of teens _____ No. of children 2 to 12 _____

Please specify:

Chicken salad sandwich \$12 × _____ (NO.) = \$ _____
 Ham & cheese sandwich \$12 × _____ (NO.) = \$ _____
 Turkey sandwich \$12 × _____ (NO.) = \$ _____
 Vegetarian sandwich \$12 × _____ (NO.) = \$ _____

Payment Method: Check enclosed VISA MasterCard

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Exp. Date _____

Card Number _____

Signature _____

Volunteer Profile: Richard Riffero

LOTUSLAND DOCENT WITH REAL STAYING POWER



COURTESY PHOTO

Lotusland Docent Richard Riffero gives a lively presentation for visitors on tour in the Japanese Garden.

DOCENT RICHARD RIFFERO'S connection to Lotusland goes back many years. His father was the grounds foreman for the Gavit estate (Cuesta Linda) in the 1920s and 1930s, before Madame Walska purchased the property in 1941 and renamed it Lotusland. As a youngster, he used to pull weeds on the main lawn. Of all his impressive resumé of volunteer work, he says Lotusland is the "dearest to his heart" because of his lifelong affiliation with the estate.

His passion for horticulture was instilled in him by his grandfather and father and is evidenced by his membership in the Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society for more than 50 years.

At 92 years young and still going strong, there can be no doubt that Richard Riffero is an extraordinary person. He reports doing isometric exercises for one hour each morning and walking three to four miles a day. He is also an accomplished ballroom dancer who has "danced his way around the world 15 times" while serving as a dancing and social host aboard cruise ships throughout

the years. His 90th birthday party saw Richard cutting the rug with a bevy of beautiful women, and probably exhausting them all.

Richard's staying power is not limited to his physical prowess; he has been an active Lotusland docent since 1988, just recently retiring this January. While most of us can't remember where we last put our car keys, Richard takes great pride in his memory. Lotusland docents are scheduled for tours months in advance and receive a reminder call by Visitor Services staff two days prior to each scheduled tour. Richard's instructions to the staff were to not call him because he always remembered his tour dates. Amazingly enough, this proved to be true throughout his many years of service as a docent.

Richard has had long runs professionally as well as volunteering. He served as Superintendent of Parks and Grounds for Santa Barbara County for 25 years, supervising a crew of 20 men who maintained 20 areas, including the courthouse, which he called "his jewel." He has received 22 awards for community

service, including the first-ever Santa Barbara Beautiful Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999. This honor was given to him for the 200 monthly columns he wrote for the *Santa Barbara News-Press* garden pages. In the columns, he described attractive homes and gardens he scouted in the area from Sheffield Drive to Turnpike Road and the Pacific Ocean to Santa Ynez Mountains. "I've been a horticulturist all my life. I was asked to do the columns in 1979 because I could identify the plants," Richard says.

Richard says to tell everyone "*arrivederci*," but we know he will continue his relationship with Lotusland as a docent emeritus and continue sharing his love of the garden with family and friends.

Thank you, Richard, for your dedicated service to Lotusland over these many years.

Author's note: Several years ago I half-jokingly asked Richard if he had a "beauty secret" for his remarkably young-looking skin. Without the slightest hesitation, he blurted out, "almonds!" I've been eating them for lunch nearly every day since.

—Connie Buxton

CELEBRATE SUMMER

Twilight Tour

SATURDAY, JUNE 25 • 6:00 TO 8:15 PM

Join us for an enchanted evening in the garden at twilight, an especially beautiful time at Lotusland.

You may take a self-guided or docent-led tour of the garden and enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres on the terrace midway through your leisurely stroll.

Sunset is at 8:15 PM, signaling the time to depart.

Docents will be available throughout the garden to answer questions.

Space is limited, so reserve early.

Please use the coupon on page 15 to sign up.

Michael Towbes—Lifetime Honorary Trustee

AT ITS FEBRUARY meeting, the Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation Board of Trustees recognized retiring Trustee Michael Towbes' 12 years of outstanding service by naming him a Lifetime Honorary Trustee. This is only the second time in the Foundation's 20-year history that this honor has been awarded. Michael joins founding Trustee Carol L. Valentine as a continuing resource of wise counsel based upon many years of leadership for Lotusland and the Santa Barbara community.

In 1992, as they were preparing to open Lotusland to the public, Mike was the first person the three remaining founding Trustees thought of as they sought to broaden the scope of the Foundation's Board. His addition to the Board came at a crucial time since the plans for a Visitor Center were nearing completion. Mike's civil engineering background and his experience as President of The Towbes Group, a successful development and construction company, and as Chairman of the Board of Montecito Bank & Trust have proved invaluable

in creating Lotusland's master plan and guiding its Finance Committee.

The crowning achievement in his long tenure on Lotusland's Board was Mike's role in making the new Cactus Garden possible. His pledge of \$200,000 and Eric Nagelmann's donation of design services set the stage for a successful initial funding effort for this \$500,000 project. Grants from the Wallis, LLWW and Castagnola Family foundations and a gift by Carol Valentine raised an additional \$160,000.

To honor Mike for his dedication and generosity to Lotusland and countless other Santa Barbara not-for-profit organizations, and to raise the \$140,000 remaining to complete the funding for the Cactus Garden, we have launched the *I Like Mike* campaign. We will ask friends of Mike to consider a donation in his honor, and the names of those who give or pledge \$5,000 or more to *I Like Mike* will be engraved on the Cactus Garden Recognition Wall. Those donors will be invited to a luncheon at Lotusland on June 18



COURTESY PHOTO

Michael Towbes

to join Mike and the other original donors for the dedication of the Cactus Garden in honor of Mike's grandchildren, Allison and Zachary Towbes, and to thank him for his 12 years of service to Lotusland.

For more information about *I Like Mike*, please contact Anne Dewey, Lotusland's Director of Development, at (805) 969-3767, extension 105.

—Steven Timbrook

LOTUSLAND
CELEBRATES 2005
THE WIZARD OF
LOT
OZ
LAND

SAVE THE DATE

Lotusland Celebrates The Wizard of LotOZland

SUNDAY, JULY 24 ▣ 4:00 TO 8:00 PM

Join us as we travel down the yellow brick road with Dorothy and Toto, along with the Tin Man, Scarecrow and Lion, on our journey to the Emerald City.

Benefactor ▣ \$5,000 (ten tickets) Patron ▣ \$1,000 (two tickets)
Patron Table Host ▣ \$3,500 (ten tickets) Tickets ▣ \$250 each

Invitations will be mailed in mid-June.

Please contact Anne Dewey, Director of Development, at (805) 969-3767, extension 105 for further details.

Lotusland Inaugurates Junior Docent Program

LOTUSLAND IS PLEASED to welcome Sunny Brucker from Crane School and Rachel Kulchin and Chereyce Perkins from Anacapa School as our first "Junior Docents."

The trio completed a six-week training course where they learned

about the plants and garden features of Lotusland and how to interpret the garden to schoolchildren. They are now ready to assist in leading student tours of the garden during the spring and summer.

This pilot program is open to

middle school and high school students and can serve as community service credit.

For more information about the Junior Docent Program, please call Connie Buxton at (805) 969-3767, extension 107.



Rachel Kulchin



Sunny Brucker and Chereyce Perkins

PHOTOS BY VIRGINIA HAYES

Digital Photography Workshop

SATURDAY, JULY 16 • 8:30 AM TO NOON

LOTUSLAND CAN BE a photographer's dream as well as nightmare. There are so many wonderful vistas and fabulous plants, but knowing how to capture the essence of the place given the limitations of lenses, the vagaries of light, and other variables can be frustrating.

Bill Dewey has been photographing the gardens at Lotusland since the foundation began its work after Madame Walska's death in 1984. His photographs appear in *Lotusland: A Photographic Odyssey* and *Ganna Walska Lotusland: The Garden and Its Creators*. They have also illustrated numerous articles about Lotusland in various magazines such as *The Smithsonian* and *Sunset*, to name just two. He is a member of the Santa Barbara Oak Group, and his landscape aerial photographs are regularly shown at the Easton Gallery in Montecito and

museums, and private collectors have purchased his work. (For more information on Bill's professional photography, see his web pages at www.wmbdewey.com.)

On Saturday, July 16th, Bill will lead a digital photography workshop for beginners and seasoned photographers who would like to learn from his experience. The workshop will take advantage of the morning light to explore composition from closeups to landscape views out in the gardens. After a break for refreshments, each student's work will be projected and critiqued in the lecture room. Bill will also discuss the advantages and disadvantages of digital versus film photography. Emphasis will be placed on SLR (single lens reflex) format cameras, but participants with point-and-shoot cameras are also welcome.

The cost for the workshop is \$30 for Lotusland members and \$35 for nonmembers. Space is limited to 15 participants. Please sign up by using the coupon on page 15.

—Virginia Hayes



Bill Dewey

ELLEN EASTON

Friends of Lotusland

We Welcome New Members Who Joined in December 2004, January and February 2005

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Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

December 2004, January and February 2005

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Continued on page 14

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December 2004, January and February 2005

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 Nicholson

Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form

PAYMENT METHOD: Check enclosed VISA MasterCard Expiration date _____

Card number _____ Signature _____

Member name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

*One member pass (\$15 value) 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

Garden Tours with VIRGINIA HAYES

Saturday, April 23 and Saturday, June 4 • 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

\$35/members • \$95/nonmembers EACH TOUR

INCLUDES LUNCH AND DELUXE COACH TRANSPORTATION FROM LOTUSLAND

PLEASE CHOOSE DATE(S): April 23 June 4

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

Twilight Tour

Saturday, June 25 • 6:00 TO 8:15 PM

\$30 EACH

CHECK ONE: Guided tour Self-guided tour

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

Digital Photography Workshop

Saturday, July 16 • 8:30 AM TO NOON

\$30/members • \$35/nonmembers

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

Garden Patrons and Garden Benefactors Enjoy Special Benefits

OUR GARDEN PATRON AND GARDEN BENEFACTOR membership levels include unlimited free admission to Lotusland and an invitation to a very special event.

This year's event is on September 8 at "Solana," the fabulous Montecito estate of trustee Sandra Nicholson and her husband Bill.

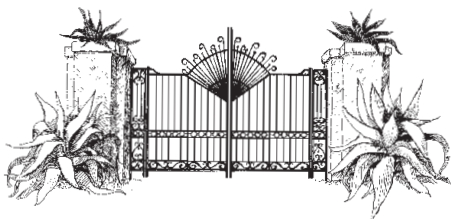
Built in 1901 for Frederick Peabody of Arrow Shirt fame, the 21,000-square-foot home and gardens have been extensively restored and renovated by the Nicholsons.

For more information about these membership levels, please contact Anne Dewey, Director of Development, at (805) 969-3767, extension 105, or by email at andewey@lotusland.org.

Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation

695 Ashley Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Address Service Requested

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2005 Spring and Summer 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 listing below). We hope you enjoy the year 2005 at Lotusland.

Saturday, April 23

Garden Tour with Virginia Hayes

9:00 AM–4:00 PM

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

Saturday, April 30

*Members' Family Day
The Incredibles, Starring
Lotusland's Amazing Plants*

10:00 AM–4:00 PM

See details and reservation form
on pages 8 and 9.

Saturday, May 7

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.

Saturday, June 4

Garden Tour with Virginia Hayes

9:00 AM–4:00 PM

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

Saturday, June 25

Summer Twilight Tour

6:00 TO 8:15 PM

Please see details on page 10
and use the coupon on page 15
to register.

Saturday, July 16

*Digital Photography
Workshop*

8:30 AM–NOON

Please see details on page 12
and use the coupon on page 15
to register.

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 24

*Lotusland Celebrates
The Wizard of LotOZland*

4:00–8:00 PM

See details on page 11.

Saturday, August 13

LotusFest!

NOON–4:00 PM

See details on page 4.

Saturday, August 20

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.



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
mid-November to mid-February.).
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.