



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS □ VOLUME 16 NO. 4 □ FALL 2007

Living Fossils

BY VIRGINIA HAYES

AMONG THE MANY interesting and majestic trees at Lotusland, three have truly ancient lineages. These species are living examples of trees that are also known in the fossil record from millions of years ago. Each has a fascinating story of discovery. All three are monotypic, with only one species in each genus.

METASEQUOIA GLYPTOSTROBOIDES (DAWN REDWOOD)

THE MAJESTIC TREE that dominates the butterfly garden at Lotusland is a deciduous conifer known as the dawn redwood—*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*. Its changing colors and perfect symmetry make it a focal point throughout the year. The history of its acquisition and date of planting are unknown, but it may be one of the earliest introductions of this species in North America.

In 1941 Japanese paleobotanist Shigeru Miki described a new fossil genus based on material collected in Japan as well as other locations in the northern hemisphere. He named it *Metasequoia* because of its botanical relationship to the coastal redwoods (*Sequoia*) of California. Miki further found that the deciduous conifer had at one time been widely distributed throughout the temperate zones of the northern hemisphere some 130 million years ago. It was thought to be extinct, but by a remarkable coincidence, during the same year, a Chinese botanist named Kan came across three living conifers of an unknown genus in a rugged mountain valley of remote Szechwan Province. War raged in China at the time, so no action was taken until 1945 when

Continued on page 2



PHOTOS BY VIRGINIA HAYES

The leaves of the dawn redwood (Metasequoia glyptostroboides) closely resemble those of the coast redwood (Sequoia sempervirens), but are deciduous.

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Mission Statement

To preserve and enhance the spectacular collections of exotic plants and the historic Montecito estate of Madame Ganna Walska, to provide public access to their remarkable beauty and diversity and, through interpretation of these collections, to foster increased knowledge and appreciation of the importance of plants and the need for their conservation.



Lotusland's dawn redwood towers over the butterfly garden.

Continued from page 1

another Chinese botanist, T. Wang, journeyed to Szechwan to collect material from the trees. He also located a few more trees of the same genus nearby.

Professor Wan-Chung Cheng of the National Central University of Nanking and his assistant, C.J. Hsueh, led a 1946



As the dawn redwood ages, the trunk becomes massive and buttressed.

expedition to the area and expanded the census of known live trees to 25 specimens. These botanists confirmed the genus as *Metasequoia* and assigned the botanical species name *glyptostroboides*. The common name, dawn redwood, is suggestive of its history back to the "dawn" of time and its relationship to the great redwoods of the western coastal regions of North America.

The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University supported other seed collection expeditions and distributed seeds and seedlings to universities, arboreta, botanists, and organizations in Europe and North America in 1948. Many of the resulting trees have thrived in cultivation. Some of these seedlings now tower 90–100 feet and are still growing.

GINKGO BILOBA (MAIDENHAIR TREE)

THE MAIDENHAIR TREE, so named because its fan-shaped leaves resemble the maidenhair ferns, has become a favorite subject in a wide variety of landscapes. Japanese gardens are no exception, and at Lotusland several mature ginkgos grow in the Japanese garden near the stream. Nearby, another is being trained in the *niwaki* pruning tradition near the path, and visitors may admire



Ginkgo biloba is known as the maidenhair tree because its leaves resemble the leaflets of the maidenhair fern.

its unique foliage from spring when leaves are grass green through late fall when they turn a clear golden yellow before falling.

Fossil remains of *Ginkgo biloba* leaves from the Triassic (about 200 million years old) are nearly identical to present-day leaves. Wild populations of this ancient tree were discovered in the late 20th century in China's Sichuan and neighboring Guizhou Provinces. Although only found growing naturally in these two places, *Ginkgo biloba* has been a sacred plant in Asia for centuries and was probably saved from extinction through man's cultivation. It is widely grown in both China and Japan for its medicinal, food, and timber value. Ginkgos can attain as much as 120 feet in height. Trees are dioecious, having male and female reproductive parts on separate trees. Male trees are preferred in Western landscapes because females produce a hard seed enclosed in a fleshy covering that smells like rancid butter and is quite messy in the garden. In Asia seeds from the female tree are harvested for their oil and, despite their nauseous smell, are roasted or eaten with bird's-nest soup after the fleshy coat is removed.

Ginkgo has been mentioned in the traditional Chinese pharmacopoeia for at least 5,000 years, and tea is made



The flattened leaflets of *Wollemia nobilis* resemble those of the bunya bunya (*Araucaria bidwillii*).

from parts of the plant to treat asthma, bronchitis, and acute allergic inflammation and as an aid to memory.

WOLLEMIA NOBILIS (WOLLEMI PINE)

THE WOLLEMI PINE is a relative newcomer, both to the garden and to the world of botanical knowledge. Discovered in 1994 in the wild interior of New South Wales, Australia, it too has no other known close relatives in existence. There are numerous fossil remains that closely resemble it, but they have not been definitively linked to this relic. The oldest of these fossils is dated to around 90 million years ago. The newly discovered plants were given the name *Wollemia nobilis* to reflect their very limited current distribution in the Wollemi National Park, near Sydney, and to honor David Noble, the forest officer who made the discovery.

Wollemia is an evergreen conifer in the *Araucaria* family and thus related to the bunya bunya (*Araucaria bidwillii*), monkey puzzle (*A. araucana*), and star pine (*A. heterophylla*). It has flattened needlelike leaves on drooping branchlets and sheds whole branchlets, as do the *araucarias*. The trees may grow to more than 100 feet and often form several separate trunks rising from a common root system.

Lotusland was able to purchase

several specimens from an importer of Australian plants. One is planted in the cycad garden near cycad species native to Australia, and the others will soon be growing between the Australian landscaping around the visitor center and the adjacent Japanese garden.

Madame Walska's penchant for collecting exotic and rare species of plants is fully realized in these three "living fossils."



**Gift
Membership**

Delight family and friends or thank a client with a gift membership to celebrate the holidays.

For information, please call
805.969.3767
and speak with Marilyn Foreman at extension 115.



In late fall, the ginkgos in Lotusland's Japanese garden are a gleaming gold.

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Japanese Garden Project Begins

LOTUSLAND'S JAPANESE GARDEN pond was once a reservoir created by a previous owner, R. Kinton Stevens, to provide water for his nursery in the late 1800s. It is a natural clay bottom pond of varying depths, none greater than five feet.

In February of 1998, El Niño storm water runoff deposited millions of metric tons of sediment into the Santa Barbara Channel. And at the same time at Lotusland, a river of water running from the mountains to the Channel breached an earthen berm on Cold Springs Road and cut diagonally through the garden. The force of the water blew out the stucco wall at the corner of Ashley and Sycamore Canyon Roads as it exited the property. Silt and sediment, as well as bricks and plants, deposited in the water garden and aloe ponds were cleaned up when the rains subsided. Unfortunately, a rapid build-up of silt and sediment began in the Japanese garden pond with these storms, and subsequent storms added more material, including pathway shale, to the pond. The build-up has been so great that, in the past couple of years, koi have been seen swimming with their dorsal fins out of the water in the very shallow sections of the pond.

Varying methods of removing the build-up of silt and sediment in the Japanese garden pond were considered. Some were too intrusive and would have damaged the existing garden or could have punctured the natural clay bottom

of the pond. Others were very expensive and would have impacted other areas of the property. After a successful three-day trial, it was agreed that Lotusland's staff would work with helpers from Valencia Landscape to remove the silt with shovels and wheelbarrows and other equipment provided by Lotusland. The removal project was completed in September 2007, and work on filling the pond will begin soon.

Additional work on the Japanese garden pond is being planned. An improved aeration and water circulation system will include the activation of the water stairs, which are not presently part of public tours. Shoreline stabilization work will include Japanese garden techniques and aesthetic improvements.

You may or may not see the koi swimming in deeper water, but check out the progress of the Japanese pond project the next time you visit Lotusland.

—Michael Iven

LOTUSLAND'S SUMMER INTERN, TONI MALOON

WHAT A SIMPLY INCREDIBLE, magical place this is. I am an older, returning student currently studying Environmental Horticulture with a Landscape concentration at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. As I am specializing in incorporating sustainable components into my designs, Lotusland was the perfect place for an internship. I met and worked with some incredible people during my 10 weeks here.

Most of my days consisted of assisting Corey Welles, the Plant Health Coordinator. Corey gave me hands-on training working with sustainable systems and learning about insectaries, soil biology, and compost tea making. For example, we figured out what was ailing a cycad and discovered a pesky little cycad mite was the culprit. Corey also showed me how to monitor plant health. We checked for compaction, monitored water use, built drip irrigation lines, and trapped gophers. I also was able to work on the irrigation for the newly planted *Chamaedorea* palm garden.

I also worked with Greg Kitajima, who is trained in the art of aesthetic Japanese tree and shrub pruning. In the few hours I worked with him, I learned how to "open the tree up," go from "coarse to fine," and not be afraid to



Toni Maloon with Lotusland's cat, Boo

COURTESY PHOTO



Water was pumped out of the pond to reveal silt and sediment. During the El Niño storm of 1998, the pond's water level was up to the head of this crane.



Lowering the water level of the Japanese garden pond revealed original shoreline stabilization and rock placement techniques.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL IVEN

cut. I look forward to applying his techniques at Cal Poly's arboretum.

Another special perk of being an intern is attending the annual American Professional Garden Association (APGA) Conference, which was in Washington D.C. this year. I visited several botanical gardens and with Lotusland Curator Virginia Hayes's help, was able to meet people involved with public gardens all over the U.S. I also had a chance to

go to some workshops in "Sustainable Gardening" and "Installing Green Roofs" and had the opportunity to meet and share information with two directors from a botanical garden in Russia.

But if there's one thing that I learned above all else, it is that Madame Walska's spirit is very much alive here at Lotusland. Her spirit resides in the hearts of all the people who work so hard to keep Madame's dream alive,

and I feel so lucky to be a part of that in this unreal and awe-inspiring garden.

I am very grateful to the John Percival and Mary D. Jefferson Endowment and the Marisla Fund for providing the financial support for my internship. And thank you to all the staff for letting me be a part of this exceptional organization and for all of your kindness in welcoming me and making me feel at home.
—Toni Maloon

Japanese Garden Aesthetic Pruning Workshop WITH GREG KITAJIMA SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10 2:00 TO 4:00 PM

*N*IWAKI, OR AESTHETIC PRUNING, is used extensively throughout Lotusland's Japanese garden. Join Greg Kitajima for a hands-on workshop to learn how the aesthetic pruning of pines is used to create beautiful pieces of living sculpture.

Greg is an apprentice of Frank Fujii, who helped design the Japanese garden with Madame Walska between 1968 and 1974.

Enrollment is limited in order to provide a quality experience for participants. Please use the coupon on page 15 to register.
—Dorothy Shaner

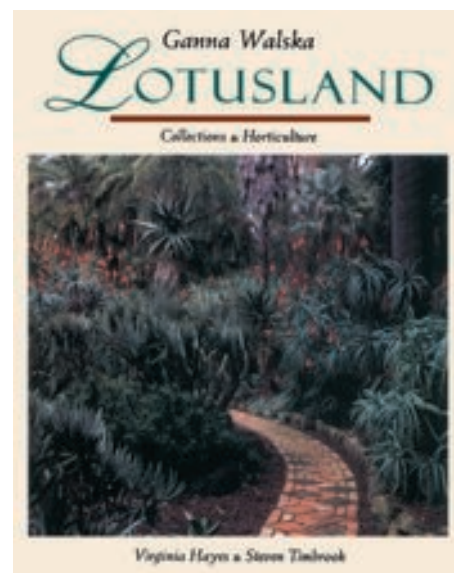
New Lotusland Book

*V*ISITORS TO LOTUSLAND often ask if we have a book that emphasizes the botanical and horticultural aspects of the various gardens and "signature" plants of Lotusland. To meet this need, Lotusland's Curator of the Living Collection, Virginia Hayes, and Director Emeritus Steven Timbrook have written *Ganna Walska Lotusland: Collections & Horticulture*. Lavishly illustrated with beautiful photographs, it is a companion volume to *Ganna Walska Lotusland: The Garden and its Creators*.

Lotusland is home to more than 3,000 different kinds of plants from all over the world. The authors took care to select the right mix of plant stories to represent the diversity of the collection and with the home gardener in mind, chose some plants for their horticultural potential in wider landscape use.

The book was made possible by

the generous support of the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, Nancy and Byron Kent Wood, Linda and Fred Gluck, and Bill and Sandi Nicholson.



BILL DEWEY

Twilight Time at Lotusland A Mysterious and Spooky Affair SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27 • 3:30 PM TO SUNSET



*A*UTUMN AT LOTUSLAND presents the garden in a different light, full of shadows and colors that are unique to the season. But when the day turns to twilight, beware of any unexpected spells that the garden may cast your way.

Enjoy friendly "spirits," beverages, and hors d'oeuvres on the terrace at the top of the main lawn. Reserve early as reservations for this event have a tendency to...disappear.

Please use the coupon on page 15 to register. Also, please indicate whether you would like a docent-led or self-guided tour when you make your reservation.
—Dorothy Shaner



The LOTUS SOCIETY

KAREN AND HARRY KOLB

LAST MONTH I ENJOYED lunch with Karen and Harry Kolb, long-time volunteers and supporters of Lotusland, and asked them to tell me a little about themselves and their involvement with Lotusland. They were both born in St. Louis, Missouri, and their families lived in the same neighborhood. Karen's brother was one of Harry's best friends.

Karen's family moved to Santa Barbara in 1960 where Karen went to Santa Barbara Junior High and graduated from Santa Barbara High School. Harry often visited Karen's family during those years to see Karen's brother and also to go horseback riding with her. They often rode from her home on Hot Springs Road up to San Ysidro Ranch

for church youth group hayrides down to the beach. They both recall Harry giving 16-year-old Karen her first kiss one evening on the wall of the old tennis court at the Parra Grande estate.

As they entered their college years, their lives went in separate directions. Karen attended Santa Barbara City College, then moved to San Francisco where she worked for the owner of the Giants baseball team. Harry took his bachelor's degree at the University of Missouri in Columbia and joined ROTC. Following graduation he served in the U.S. Air Force, where he rose to the rank of Captain. Following his service, he joined Dunn and Bradstreet and worked in Colorado. Harry moved to Santa Barbara in 1978 and began his very successful career as a realtor specializing in estate properties.

Karen and Harry's lives came together again in the 1980s, and they married at Westmont College Chapel in 1987. In fact, Harry proposed to Karen on the same old tennis court wall where they shared her first kiss some 20 years before. They also share a great interest in Lotusland. Karen is a long-time docent, and in the early years of the *Lotusland Celebrates* summer gala, she worked with the event committee to create displays based on each year's theme, drawing upon materials in Lotusland's archives. Harry joined the Board of Trustees in 2000. Karen is on the Women's Board of the Community Arts Music Association, and Harry is a past Board Member of the Montecito Association and also serves on the Board of Casa del Herrero, another

public estate garden in Montecito.

Both Karen and Harry share a great interest in Lotusland's history. "One day someone in a docent class told me that one of the old copper zodiac figures that used to mark the hours on Madame's horticultural clock was for sale at an antique shop in Summerland," Karen told me. "Harry and I went to look at it and we both just knew it belonged at Lotusland." They bought the figure, Scorpio, and donated it to Lotusland where for many years it hung on the foyer wall near the stairs. When the clock was restored in 1998, that original figure helped artist Sam Dematchke decide how to recreate all twelve zodiac signs.

The Kolbs enjoy traveling and have taken recent trips to Machu Picchu in Peru and the Galapagos Islands. They have a 40' sloop, *Serenade*, at Santa Barbara Harbor for local sailing. Their last vacation was in the British Virgin Islands, where they rented a sailboat with friends for an island-hopping cruise.

Karen enjoys guiding visitors through Madame Walska's garden, while Harry often brings his clients to Lotusland to let them experience the spirit of old Montecito. Karen and Harry became Lotusland members in 1993, when Lotusland first opened to the public. Through their endowment support as charter members of *The Lotus Society*, Karen and Harry are ensuring that Lotusland will continue to charm and delight the generations to come.

—Steven Timbrook



NEW MEMBERS

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

Mrs. Joanne C. Holderman

Nora McNeely Hurley

Members of *The Lotus Society* have each made a gift or bequest of \$10,000 or more to Lotusland's Endowment Fund. Names of *Lotus Society* members are engraved on *The Wall of Honor*, which is located at the Visitor Center at the end of the Australian tea tree arbor.

To learn more about *The Lotus Society*, please call Anne Dewey, Lotusland's Director of Development, at 805.969.3767, extension 105.



Karen and Harry Kolb

LOTUSLAND CELEBRATES Peter Pan's Lotusland

GENEROUS DONATIONS BY our Sponsor, Hammond Associates International Fund Consultants, and our Sustainer, Kind World Foundation, helped make our fundraising gala not only one of the most financially successful events ever, but also one of the most magical parties of the summer.

Committee co-chairs Jill Levinson and Cynthia Spivey; members Martha Bell, Ella Brittingham, Anne Dewey, Tiffany Foster, Erin Beach Hedrick, Kisa Heyer, Dawn Lafitte, Bambi Leonard, Alixe Mattingly, Mary Morouse, Sandra Nicholson, Valerie Rice, Laura Shelburne, Meghan Stoll, and Katie Williamson; and Tamara Jensen and I.D.O. Events, Inc. produced a memorable adventure in Neverland. We are grateful for the support of Sotheby's for underwriting the invitation and providing the excellent services of auctioneer Lisa Hubbard. Harry Kolb, Sotheby's International Realty, generously sponsored printing of the program.

Guests first had to "jump" out of the Darlings' bedroom window to begin their adventures and were met by a wisecracking Crocodile holding a clock. Around the corner was the Lost Boys and Girls Fort with raucous children on the zip line, slide, and trampoline next to Wendy's charming moss-covered home—built by Giffin and Crane (not their usual custom home!). In the Shell Pond, Mermaids lounged and splashed among the rocks. At the Water Garden, Tinkerbell appeared to dance among the lotuses while Fairies darted about.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Lotusland Celebrates co-chair Jill Levinson, auction co-chairs Val Rice and Mary Morouse and Lotusland Celebrates co-chair Cynthia Spivey. Jill and Cynthia are also Lotusland trustees.

The main lawn was awash with excitement as Captain Hook and his band of pirates "kidnapped" Peter and Wendy and the guests and made them walk the plank of the pirate ship, which was also the bar! Colorful teepees and the beat of drums enticed guests to the Cactus Garden to see the North American Indian Eagle Spirit Dancers perform in spectacular costumes. Tricia Fountaine's imaginative centerpieces were a big hit.

Board President Kisa Heyer greeted guests, thanked the generous donors and talented event committee, and invited everyone to enjoy the delicious dinner catered by Mondial. Thank you to Alma Rosa Winery and Rusack Vineyards for donating a portion of the dinner wines.

Following dinner Kisa announced the winner of the raffle item, a spa

treatment at the California Wellbeing Institute. Our intrepid auctioneer Lisa Hubbard did an excellent job of encouraging guests to bid until they dropped! The auction started with a fabulous one-of-a-kind replica of Lotusland's *Antique Wishing Well*. Next was a *Trip to England* including a private walking tour of Peter Pan's London and much more. Lotusland is grateful to Robin and Robert Jones of Travel World and Jon D. Makhmaltchi of Small Luxury Hotels of the World for their help.

The opportunity to adopt a garden for a year is always a popular item, and this year it was *Adopt the Water Garden*. Another fun item was the *His and Her Personal Style Package* that included the services of stylist to the stars Anya Berger Sarre, lunch at Hotel Bel-Air, a night at the California Club, a private



Bidding was spirited for the lovely oil painting, "Morning Walk to the Shell Pond," painted especially for this event by guest artist Garrett Speirs (RIGHT). Lynne and Vincent Narez were the lucky auction winners. The painting was beautifully framed by Carleton-Kirkegaard Framing.



Parker Montgomery (SECOND FROM RIGHT) was the high bidder for the fabulous Lotus Brooch designed and generously donated by Mish Tworkowski. Carolina Montgomery (SEATED) is wearing the brooch. Others (LEFT TO RIGHT) are Sotheby's auctioneer Lisa Hubbard, Mish Tworkowski, and Board President Kisa Heyer.



D'Arcy and Mark Cornwall and Patricia and Larry Durham arrived at Peter Pan's Lotusland by "jumping" through the Darlings' bedroom window. Larry is a Lotusland trustee.



Fred Gluck, armed and ready to fight the pirates, trustee Linda Gluck, Charles and Alicia McCutcheon, Laura Bushnell, and the sword-wielding John Miller enjoyed the party.

dinner with Chef Erin Beach Hedrick, make-up by Cathryn van Breen, and Innovative Skincare products.

Dinner for Ten at Lotusland was also a big hit with dinner by the talented Chef Pietro Nasta.

Guest artist Garrett Speirs created an amazing oil painting, *Morning Walk to the Shell Pond*, that sparked lively bidding. It was beautifully framed by Carleton-Kirkegaard Framing.

A second magical *Dinner for Ten at Lotusland*, with the added bonus of Scott Wilson as the guest of honor, was quickly scooped up by bidders who wanted to meet the Jerusalem Bureau Chief of the *Washington Post*.

Last, but certainly not least, was the fabulous *Lotus Brooch* created by famed jewelry designer Mish Tworkowski of Mish New York especially for this event. Bidding was intense for this delicate and gorgeous piece, and Lotusland is extremely grateful to Mish for his generous support.

After the breathtakingly successful auction, departing guests were asked by the Pirates and the Crocodile if they

really wanted to go back to the land of grown ups—several are still here! Wendy handed out delicious scones donated by Jeannine's Bakery.

Lotusland wishes to thank the following supporters whose generosity ensured a magical evening and a major fundraising success. —Anne Dewey

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Pat and Chris Beach with their daughter Erin Beach Hedrick and son-in-law Carter Hedrick. Erin is a member of the Lotusland Celebrates Committee.



Michael Salsbury and Alyce Faye Cleese became very friendly with the wisecracking Crocodile.



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: Lifetime honorary trustee Carol Valentine, trustee Marianne Sprague, Marjorie Chaney and trustee Ella Brittingham enjoyed the meal catered by Mondial.



The Lost Boys and Girls delighted guests with their antics on the zip line and trampoline next to Wendy's adorable moss-covered home, custom-made by Giffin & Crane.

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Ruben Flores
Jack & Victoria Kerns
Mr. & Mrs. Parker Montgomery
Lynne & Vincent Narez
Mark & Adriana Shuman



Jason and Maili Brocke and John and Laurie Tilson enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and drinks at the pirate ship, which doubled as a bar. John is a Lotusland trustee.



Genevieve and Ivan Reitman, Margo Barbakow, Bob Veloz, and trustee Sandi Nicholson had a good time at the sold-out gala.

LotusFest!

THE LOTUSES WERE in full bloom in both the Japanese garden and the water garden for our annual celebration of Lotusland's legendary namesake.

Guests enjoyed premium wines from some of Santa Barbara County's finest vintners, complemented by delicious hors d'oeuvres. Vajra delighted guests with their mellow sounds throughout the afternoon.

A demonstration and display of *Ikebana*, the art of Japanese flower arranging, was provided by Valerie Halverson and Eric Hochberg of Ikenobo Ikebana, and a *Lotus Lore Galore* presentation in the dining room provided in-depth information about water plants.

Thank you to Ikenobo Ikebana and to the very generous vintners who participated: Carina Cellars, Jaffurs Wine Cellars, Salisbury Vineyards, Santa Barbara Winery, Stolpman Vineyards, Summerland Winery, and Whitcraft Winery.

—Dorothy Shaner



Guests enjoyed viewing the lotuses in both the Japanese garden and the water garden (ABOVE).



Alyssa Whitcraft and Erin Wallace of Whitcraft Winery poured a variety of wines for guests.



David Hardee of Carina Cellars was one of the many generous vintners who donated wine for LotusFest.



A beautiful example of Japanese flower arranging by Eric Hochberg of Ikenobo Ikebana.



Mellow jazz by Vajra provided a perfect ambiance for delighted guests all afternoon.



A guest experiences the "nose" of one of the fine wines offered at LotusFest.



John and Maridel Salisbury from Salisbury Vineyards.



Dave Yates represented Jaffurs Wine Cellars.



Katie McGaughy and Jeanette Deluca of Stolpman Vineyards.



Bruce McGuire and Kate Dole poured for Santa Barbara Winery.

NEW TO THE COLLECTIONS Plant Rescue Program

LOTUSLAND HAS PARTICIPATED in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Plant Rescue Center Program since January 2005. This program was established in 1978 to care for plants confiscated by the government that do not meet the import or export requirements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The Service's Division of Management Authority (DMA) recruits zoos, botanical gardens, and research institutions to act as Plant Rescue Centers for the confiscated plants. Based on the port of entry and type of plants seized, the DMA will notify one of the nearby cooperating institutions that a shipment is available. The receiving institution has the right to refuse any shipment for any reason. Once accepted, the institution must hold them for 30 days in case the country of origin wants them back. After that period, the plants remain the property of the U.S. government and may not be traded or sold. The plants may be displayed and propagated, and any propagations become the property of the institution holding them.

Lotusland is happy to be involved in the rescue operation for these illegally traded plants. Since enlisting, we have



This tiny variegated *Astrophytum myriostigma* was confiscated by federal inspectors and is now thriving at Lotusland.

received several shipments, almost all of which have been species of cactus. A recent shipment confiscated from someone traveling from Thailand consisted of two bishop's cap cacti (*Astrophytum myriostigma*) and one sand dollar cactus (*A. asterias*). These spineless cacti typically have only five to eight broad ribs and are covered with whitish

scurf. One of the two new bishop's caps is the normal green form, while the other is a rather rare variegated variety. The sand dollar cactus may also be a cultivated variety. All are small and will remain in the nursery for the time being, but will be planted out once they have reached a sufficient size.

—Virginia Hayes

Where the Wild Things Are

WELWITSCHIA MIRABILIS

VISITORS TO LOTUSLAND quickly become aware that they are surrounded by some very strange plants, many of which they may never have seen before. But one in particular among Lotusland's collections, *Welwitschia mirabilis*, is without a doubt one of the strangest plants in the entire world. It only occurs as isolated colonies within a narrow strip of the Namib Desert on the west coast of southern Africa from central Namibia to southern Angola. It is restricted to the belt of coastal fog and only reaches inland about 100 miles. The species is named for Friedrich Welwitsch, the Austrian explorer, botanist, and physician who discovered it in 1859. Although it has common names in several African languages, there is no English common name other than the genus name, *Welwitschia*. It is the single species in its

own family within the Gymnosperms, the larger group that contains conifers, cycads, and other cone-bearing plants.

Welwitschia has a lifespan estimated at 400 to 1,000 years, although the average age of plants in the wild, determined by radio-carbon dating, is 500 to 600 years. The species is notable for the fact that each plant produces only two true leaves in its entire life, which continually grow from the base. As those leaves become tattered by wind and by animals chewing on them for moisture, the plants can appear to have many more than two leaves. On large plants, the two leaves can extend out for more than 10 feet from each side of the plant.

There are separate male and female plants, each with its distinctive cones. The elongated male cones are borne on upright stalks and produce pollen, while the stubbier cones of female plants,



Welwitschia mirabilis occurs as isolated colonies in the coastal fog belt of the Namib Desert.

which produce the seeds, are on shorter stalks. Both male and female cones produce nectar that attracts pollinating insects. The seeds can remain viable for several years, germinating only after several days of rain, which occurs very infrequently. Once the seedlings are established, frequent coastal fogs are the main source of moisture for the plants.

Because *Welwitschia* is so highly drought tolerant, it easily rots under normal growing conditions in Santa Barbara. At Lotusland it is grown in one of the greenhouses and thus is not often seen by Lotusland visitors. A trip to Namibia, however, would be incomplete without a visit to its native habitat to see this extreme example of desert survival adaptation.

—Steven Timbrook

PHOTOS BY STEVEN TIMBROOK



Female plants produce ovoid seed cones on short stalks.



Male plants produce elongated pollen cones on long stalks.

Aloe Outing

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19
1:00 TO 4:00 PM

THE MASS OF FIERY SPIKES of aloe flowers provides a spectacular floral show every January. You are invited to enjoy the rare beauty of Madame Walska's garden in the off season. A directory of some of the most interesting and lovely specimens will be provided, and members of the horticulture staff will be on hand to answer questions.

Cookies, coffee, and sparkling cider will be served throughout the afternoon in Madame Walska's drawing room. Not just for adults, this casual afternoon will appeal to naturalists of any age. Please join us for this special event during a time that the garden is not usually open for visitors. To register, please use the coupon on page 15.

BILL DEWEY



Lotusland Members

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2007

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Continued on page 14

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JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2007

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Continued from page 13

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Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form

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

Card number _____ Signature _____

Member name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Fees are refundable only if cancellation is received one week before class or event.

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

Holiday Succulent Wreath Making Workshop

Saturday, October 20 • 9:00 TO 11:00 AM

\$45/members • \$60/nonmembers

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

Twilight Time at Lotusland: A Mysterious and Spooky Affair

Saturday, October 27 • 3:30 PM TO SUNSET

CHECK ONE: ☐ Docent-guided tour ☐ Self-guided tour

\$55/members • \$65/nonmembers

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

Japanese Garden Aesthetic Pruning Workshop

With GREG KITAJIMA, LOTUSLAND JAPANESE GARDEN SPECIALIST

Saturday, November 10 • 2:00 TO 4:00 PM

\$40/members • \$45/nonmembers

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

Aloe Outing

Saturday, January 19, 2008 • 1:00 TO 4:00 PM

\$40/members • \$45/nonmembers 🌵 Ages 5 to 18: \$15/members • \$20/nonmembers

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



Holiday Succulent Wreath Making Workshop

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20 • 9:00 TO 11:00 AM

*M*ake your own living wreath! Join us for an informative and fun succulent wreath-making session at Lotusland.

This workshop is designed for beginners and will lead you through the steps to create a beautiful living

wreath that can be used year-round with minimal care.

All necessary materials to construct one 14-inch wreath are included in the workshop fee.

Space is limited to 15 adults. Please register early by using the coupon above.

Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation

695 Ashley Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Address Service Requested

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Fall 2007 and Winter 2008 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. We hope to see you at Lotusland.

Saturday, October 6

Book Signing

*Ganna Walska Lotusland:
Collections & Horticulture*

4:00 TO 6:00 PM

Call 805.969.9990 for reservations.

Saturday, October 20

Holiday Succulent Wreath

Making Workshop

9:00 TO 11:00 AM

See details on page 15 and use the coupon on page 15 to register.

Saturday, October 27

Twilight Time at Lotusland:

A Mysterious and Spooky Affair

3:30 PM TO SUNSET

See details on page 5 and use the coupon on page 15 to register.

Saturday, November 10

Japanese Garden Aesthetic Pruning

Workshop with Greg Kitajima,

Lotusland Japanese Garden Specialist

2:00 TO 4:00 PM

See details on page 5 and use the coupon on page 15 to register.

Thursday, November 15

Last day of regular tours before garden is closed until Saturday, February 16, 2008.

Saturday, January 19

Aloe Outing

1:00 TO 4:00 PM

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



Music Event

We are so sorry to disappoint all of you John Pizzarelli fans!

Music at Lotusland: An Afternoon of Jazz with John Pizzarelli did not take place on September 30 due to a conflict with Tony Bennett performing at the Santa Barbara County Bowl on the same day.

We will keep you informed as to the status of the next music event. Thank you so much to those of you who supported this event.

—Anne Dewey

Holiday Shopping and Self-Guided Tours

Friday, December 7
Saturday December 8
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 \$35
or use a member pass.

Reservations are required and may be made by calling Visitor Services at 805.969.9990, 9 AM–5 PM, M–F and 9 AM–1 PM on Saturdays.