



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS □ VOLUME 16 NO. 2 □ SPRING 2007

Chamaedorea Palms

By VIRGINIA HAYES

IN THE SHELTERED corner of Lotusland known as the shade palm garden is a collection of diminutive palms in the genus *Chamaedorea*.

Chamaedorea palms are small in stature, rarely growing taller than 15 feet or so, and have slender stems, many not much more than an inch in diameter. Palms occur as single-trunked specimens or as many-trunked clumps. This genus includes species that also grow in both forms. Besides their thin trunks, *Chamaedorea* palms share other common characteristics. Most have pinnate, or feather-shaped, leaves. Among the single-stemmed species are *C. tepejilote* and *C. plumosa*. *C. seifrizii* is sold under the name bamboo palm as its clumps of slender stems resemble bamboo. Other species may also appear under this common name, such as *C. costaricana*, *C. microspadix*, and *C. radicalis*. One species, *C. elatior*, is more vine-like. It clammers through surrounding vegetation to lengths of 60 feet or more. A few species, such as *C. metallica*, have undivided leaves that resemble fish tails. The leaves of this particular species also have a metallic sheen. A number of species also have showy flower stalks with bright red, orange, or black fruits.

A few *Chamaedorea* palms may be more familiar as houseplants than as garden subjects. Parlor palms, including *Chamaedorea elegans*, were first popular during the Victorian era and continue to be grown by the thousands for this purpose. Several small plants may be planted together in a single pot and can survive for many years. In the garden, these naturally single-stemmed individuals will eventually reach eight feet or more. *Chamaedorea* palms are

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PHOTOS BY VIRGINIA HAYES

Chamaedorea palms grow slowly. These parlor palms (*Chamaedorea elegans*) were planted more than 20 years ago and are under five feet in height.

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Mission Statement

*To preserve and enhance the
spectacular collections of exotic plants
on the Montecito estate of the
late Madame Ganna Walska and,
through interpretation of these collections,
to foster increased knowledge and
appreciation of the importance of plants
and the need for their conservation.*



Bizarrely-shaped concretions—natural mineral formations—are displayed throughout the shade palm garden.



Immature (green) and mature (black) fruits of Chamaedorea tepejilote are held on bright orange stalks.

Continued from page 1

ideally suited as indoor plants not only because they remain small, but also because they come from deep forest habitats throughout Mexico, Central America, and northern South America. Many grow in rain forests or cloud forests where temperatures do not

fluctuate widely and moisture levels are consistently high. With adequate water, they adapt readily to the low light and moderate temperatures of our interior spaces. In southern California, they also grow well outdoors with ample water and full shade.

There are about 100 species of *Chamaedorea*, but a much smaller number are commonly grown. Lotusland's collection now contains nearly half of the described species. In 2002, the number was greatly augmented when Dr. Donald Hodel arranged for his collection to come to Lotusland. It comprised 45 species and more than 230 plants. Dr. Hodel has literally written the book on the genus and had collected and grown them during his research. These palms have been waiting in the nursery to be added to the display in the garden. To accommodate them, some older palms of dubious origin will be moved out and new planting beds created. The fascinating mineral concretions will be safely stored away during the construction phase to be reset when it is completed.

One major issue in the design for the garden will be to provide adequate shade for the expanded growing area. Several short-term as well as long-term



Many Chamaedorea palms have brightly-colored fruits to attract animal dispersers.

strategies will be employed, including planting ornamental and complementary tree species to further enhance the diversity of this secluded garden area.

During the reconstruction of the shade palm garden, access will be restricted, but the end result will definitely be worth the disturbance. By year's end, more than half of Hodel's important collection will be settled into their new home. In the coming years, after additional trees have matured enough to provide adequate shade, a second phase will make it possible to see the entire collection on display.

Dr. Hodel will give a palm lecture at Lotusland on June 16. Please see page 7 for details.



The leaves of Chamaedorea metallica are divided only at the tip and have a bluish, metallic sheen.

President's Letter



NELL CAMPBELL

Kisa Heyer

MEMBERSHIP AND GIVING

OUR MEMBERSHIP BASE continues to grow. We are really happy to have your support, and I thank you for becoming involved with the garden. Many of you supported our Annual Appeal, which is crucial to operating the gardens. The special party for our Upper Level supporters at Patricia and Larry Durham's exquisite home and gardens was something that will long be remembered—and provides much incentive to consider an upgrade from your current membership level.

Our planned giving program, *The Lotus Society*, is vital to the continued growth and preservation of Lotusland. I am pleased to report that it has grown to 70 members in the five years since its creation. This year's annual luncheon to honor *Lotus Society* members was at Virginia Castagnola-Hunter's beautiful home and garden and was truly a delight for all who attended.

GREAT EVENTS

LOTUSLAND'S EVENTS ALSO continued to receive rave reviews. *Lotusland Celebrates: The Summer of Love* and the newly-established *Music at Lotusland*, which last year featured *An Afternoon of Jazz with The Tierney Sutton Band*, was a wonderful start to what will now be an annual music event. We are so pleased with your patronage of these events,

and if you haven't attended them before, I encourage you to do so in the future. It is truly magical to experience the garden while listening to a musical performance or enjoying a tour filled with entertainment and a fine meal, and these events significantly help our ability to operate the garden and its programs.

SERVICE TO LOTUSLAND

DURING THE YEAR, we recognized two new Lifetime Honorary Trustees, Merryl Brown and Robert Emmons. And now it is with great admiration that we say goodbye to Trustee Anne Jones, who is stepping down from the Board of Trustees after 23 years of service to Lotusland. I am pleased to announce that the board has named Mrs. Jones as our newest Lifetime Honorary Trustee in recognition of her many contributions. A Founding Trustee, she has been very involved in horticulture organizations throughout the community. We will miss her greatly.

I am also very pleased to welcome four new Trustees who have graciously agreed to serve on our board. Jane Copelan, Brett Posten, Cynthia Spivey, and Marianne Sprague will join us this month. They each offer unique wonderful qualities that will greatly enhance the board as we continue to develop the future leadership of Lotusland.

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

WE WERE THE PROUD recipients of the Santa Barbara Beautiful President's Award and received national recognition in articles in a variety of publications including *The Wall Street Journal*, *Opera News*, *Cowboys & Indians*, and *Tina Latina* among others. Local foundations as well as national organizations continue to fund Lotusland's Fourth Grade Outreach Program, sustainability programs, and other valued projects.

Continued from page 3

MANAGEMENT NEWS

FINALLY, I WANT to inform you all that in late February I received Mike Bush's resignation as Executive Director of Lotusland, effective March 23, 2007. I realize this is sudden; however, Mike has made a big difference in the 16 months he has been at the garden, and we wish him and Jeannie the best.

Our plans for interim management of the garden have been addressed in a thoughtful and careful manner by forming a Management Operating Committee. Director Emeritus Steven Timbrook has agreed to serve as interim

Financial Officer and as a member of the Management Operating Committee. Other Committee members are Anne Dewey, Director of Development; Deanna Hatch, Communications Manager; Virginia Hayes, Curator of the Living Collection; Michael Iven, Director of Grounds and Facilities; and John Tilson, Trustee, who will serve as chair. We have also begun our executive search, which will be given our highest priority.

LOOKING FORWARD

WE HAVE ANOTHER exciting year ahead for 2007 filled with excellent events and programs. Be sure to save these dates on your calendars: Members' Family Day

on May 19 is a not-to-be-missed event, and the *Lotusland Celebrates* Committee is hard at work planning another spectacular event, this year titled *Peter Pan's Lotusland: Where You Never Grow Up*, on July 22. *LotusFest*, our annual celebration of lotuses, will be on July 28, and *An Afternoon of Music at Lotusland with John Pizzarelli* is scheduled for September 30.

We look forward to an exciting spring and continuing the great work that has been accomplished by all of you, our staff, volunteers, and members in the past few years. Thank you for all of your support.

I look forward to seeing you in the garden. —Kisa Heyer, President

Digital Photography Workshop

WITH LARRY FRIESEN

SATURDAY, JULY 14 • 9:00 AM TO NOON

LARRY FRIESEN WILL SHARE his extensive knowledge at a digital photography workshop at Lotusland on July 14. Beginners and seasoned photographers who would like to learn from his experience can spend the morning working with Larry as he presents ideas and examples of his work and then leads participants through the garden to create their own photo images.

Incorporating digital photography

into his classes at Santa Barbara City College, Larry's dramatic images capture the true essence of life science no matter what the subject might be. His photography is widely used in textbooks, research articles, his own internet courses in biology, and in two online nature magazines, *Santa Barbara Nature* and *Nature Journal*.

Space is limited. Please register early by using the coupon on page 15.



Larry Friesen photographed this passion flower with an artistic eye for use as a teaching tool.

LARRY FRIESEN, SATURDAYS.NET

Spring Twilight Tour

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

4:30 TO 7:30 PM

CELEBRATE SPRING BY spending an enchanting late afternoon in the garden. Our Twilight Tours offer guests the opportunity to enjoy the garden at the end of the day when light is subdued and shadows lengthen.

Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served on the terrace. You may take a docent-led tour or enjoy the garden on your own on a self-guided tour. Docents will be available throughout the garden to answer your questions.

Please use the coupon on page 15 to reserve space for this event.

SAVE THE DATE

LotusFest!

SATURDAY, JULY 28 • 2:00 TO 5:30 PM

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

Wine tasting from Santa Barbara County premier vintners, live music, and hors d'oeuvres 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!

WM. B. DEWEY

NEW TO THE COLLECTIONS

Specimens from UC Santa Barbara

IN THE WORLD of botany instruction at universities throughout the United States, there is a growing trend to move away from systematics (the study of the diversity of life forms and their relationships) and taxonomy (the classification of organisms) as core components. Former biology departments are being reorganized and divided into sections teaching evolution and ecology or molecular and cellular biology. As a result, greenhouses that used to house extensive and comprehensive plant collections to illustrate concepts of systematics are giving way to DNA sequencers and benches filled with hundreds of the same species of plant grown for quantitative analysis. UC Santa Barbara has undergone such a reorganization in the last decade or two, and its plant collections have been hugely diminished. As a result of this, Lotusland was recently able to obtain some interesting and rare species. Here is a small sampling of that windfall.

Angiopteris evecta is known as the giant fern or mule's foot fern (its leaf bases look like the hooves of a mule). It is one of the more primitive ferns, having changed very little in the last 300 million years. It has large, coarse fronds (to 10 feet in length) and will add an interesting dimension to the fern garden with its size and stature.



One leaflet of the primitive fern *Angiopteris evecta* seen against a portion of a large *Anthurium spectabile* leaf.



PHOTOS BY VIRGINIA HAYES

Though they are unrelated, the leaves of *Carludovica palmata* resemble those of many palm species.

Anthurium spectabile, native to the wet forests of Costa Rica, is also a large species. It has leaves to two feet long or more. While its flowers are inconspicuous, the foliage will contribute to the tropical look in the epiphyllum garden.

Carludovica palmata bears a great resemblance to a palm, but is from an entirely different family, the cyclanthaceae. Its leaves, though, are used, just as many palm leaves are, to make woven

hats and other objects, giving it the common name Panama hat plant. Docents will be able to talk about this convergent evolution when the Panama hat plant is planted near a similar-looking, but unrelated palm.

While students at UC Santa Barbara will no longer be able to view these interesting plant species, visitors to Lotusland's botanic garden will have that opportunity. —Virginia Hayes

Storybook Tour

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

9:15 AM TO NOON

JOIN US FOR an entertaining and unusual way to experience Lotusland. Storytellers will read from books inspired by gardens and the creatures that inhabit them. The selected stories will appeal to the young (four to eight years) and the young at heart and each will be told in a different Lotusland garden. Refreshments will be served at the end of the tour.

To register for this special tour, please use the coupon on page 15.



DOROTHY SHANER



The LOTUS SOCIETY

JACKIE STEVENS

IT DOESN'T TAKE too long chatting with one of Santa Barbara's long-time residents before you discover an unexpected connection to another Santa Barbara friend.

The other day I was sitting in the charming San Roque living room of Jackie Stevens, widow of the late Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge Ronald Stevens, getting to know a little more about the lively lady I've had the pleasure of traveling with on Lotusland trips to Santa Fe, Charleston, and Seattle. I asked about how she met her husband and how they came to Santa Barbara. "I'm a native Californian, born



Jackie Stevens

in Oakland and raised in Los Angeles," Jackie told me. "I met Ronald while he was a law student at UCLA and I was a public health nurse, having already graduated from Mount St. Mary's College. Actually, we met on a blind date and found we really enjoyed each other. We married and our first son was born while Ronald was still in law school. Ronald wanted to live in Santa Barbara and when he graduated, his first position was deputy district attorney for Santa Barbara County, but his assignment was Santa Maria. We lived there for about a year before he joined a law firm in Santa Barbara. He also practiced for a time with Carroll Barrymore."

Jackie was surprised when I told her that when Lotusland did its restoration of the Moorish fountain, Carroll, a talented amateur ceramicist made and donated the ceramic bowl in the basin at the end of the runnel. I too was surprised by the connection between the Stevenses and Barrymores.

Jackie and Ronald had three more children, a daughter and two more sons, and Jackie is a proud grandmother of two young grandchildren, one just a few months old. When her children were old enough, Jackie worked part-time as a school nurse, part of the time at San Marcos High School. She later was Director of Nursing for a home health agency. A candidate Jackie once interviewed for a nursing position told her that she was well-qualified because she had done nursing for Madame Ganna Walska, the implication being that if she could please Madame Walska, anything else would be easy.

After her husband became a Superior Court Judge, they had more opportunity to travel, which they both greatly enjoyed, and took cruises to Alaska, Mexico, the Caribbean, and through the Panama Canal. "Cruises were a way for Ronald to really get away from work and not be always at the mercy of the telephone."

I asked about her first visit to Lotusland. "Ronald and I had called for reservations when Lotusland first opened, but we couldn't get in and then his cancer kept us from visiting. My first visit was on an evaluation tour by a friend, Mary Ann Donner, who was then in the docent training program. I really enjoyed it and when I received a letter

announcing the formation of *The Lotus Society*, I decided that joining in memory of my husband was something that felt like just the right thing to do."

As we walked through her garden on the way to my car, Jackie showed me her "bottle tree," a starburst of variously shaped bottles all in a dark blue shade of glass perched on the ends of a welded frame, standing proudly next to a beautifully blooming *Ceanothus*. Madame Walska would have loved it.

—Steven Timbrook



NEW MEMBERS

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

Mike Bush & Jeanne Miller

Larry & Patricia Durham

Buddy Kaye—His Words Live On

Keith J. Mautino

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.



All visitors walk by The Wall of Honor as they enter Lotusland.

Horticultural Happenings

LOTUSLAND'S GARDEN STAFF members were busy working on a wide variety of projects this winter.

NEW ROSES PLANTED

NEW FLORIBUNDA ROSES chosen for their colors, disease resistant qualities, and ultimate sizes were planted in the parterre beds in January. Curator Virginia Hayes chose the butter-gold 'Julia Child,' apricot-orange blend 'Livin' Easy,' and smoky chocolate-orange 'Hot Cocoa' varieties. An offset planting scheme allowed for more roses in the beds than in previous years and will provide an exceptional display of color. *Passiflora sanguinolenta* (pink passion vine) planted on the rose garden trellis completed the rose garden renovation project.

We are grateful to rose consultant Dan Bifano for his participation in the project and to Weeks Roses for donating the plants.

WEIRD WEATHER

THE GOOD NEWS is that winter rains caused no damage to the garden. This year many maintenance and special projects proceeded without the usual rain delays. The bad news is the lack of rain and the resulting drought-like conditions are not good for the garden. Perimeter plantings and selected areas of the garden, such as hedges and trees, will require additional monitoring this year in order to determine soil moisture

and provide the watering not received by winter rains.

Several days of below freezing temperatures affected some plantings, including succulents, cycads, bananas, cannas, lantana, and citrus. On the other hand, several days of 90° weather burned leaves of *Agave attenuatas* along the main drive.

The garden survived in spite of this very unusual winter and you will find it looking good on your next visit.

SYCAMORE CANYON ROAD PEDESTRIAN PATH

VISITORS TO LOTUSLAND drive along Sycamore Canyon Road, a busy street with minimal space for pedestrians. Many years ago, after the overgrown landscape of various agave species was removed along Lotusland's Sycamore Canyon frontage and the pink stucco wall surrounding the garden was repaired and painted, we re-landscaped the area with a variety of succulents. One plant selection criterion at that time was "no sharp thorns or points," so the planting scheme allowed space for pedestrians to walk close to the wall instead of in the street. Lotusland also made arrangements with CalTrans to install a footbridge over the storm drain canal at that time to make walking safer.

Cold Spring Elementary School is located at the corner of Sycamore Canyon Road and Cold Spring Road,



Pedestrians can now walk from Ashley Road. to Cold Spring Road without going in the street.

across the street from Lotusland's Visitor Entrance. Recently Lotusland staff cooperated with the school's "Safe Routes to School Committee" to identify portions of the Sycamore Canyon frontage path in need of renovation. Pedestrian access and safety were improved by relocating or removing several plants that were growing over the intended walking path and by providing access to the path from nearby Ashley Road. As a result, school children can walk to school safely, and local residents can enjoy walking in their neighborhood. —Michael Iven



A total of 120 roses were planted in the two parterre beds.



A thin layer of ice covered the Japanese pond for a couple of days.

Members' Family Day *Buried Treasure! Hidden Treasures!*

SATURDAY, MAY 13

Lotusland wishes to thank you, our members, for your support by hosting our tenth anniversary celebration.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

Thomas & Nancy Crawford, Jr.

Activities w



COURTESY PHOTO



PHOTOS BY NELL CAMPBELL



Mark Collier performing two magic shows
Face-painting, cartoon caricatures, activities, games, and crafts
Dress up in costumes and take home a free pirate souvenir photo
Toe-tapping live music by LeC

Members' Family Day is FREE!

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

Please reserve early as this event always quickly fills to capacity.

Bring your own picnic or pre-purchase a lunch catered by Tinker's Summerland Catering Company.

Lunch includes a choice of grilled hamburger or cheeseburger on a multi-grain bun, a grilled chicken burger or garden burger on a whole wheat bun; or all-beef hotdog split and grilled on a steak roll; french fries; and watermelon.

Tickets for box lunches are available until May 4.

(Sorry, there is no guarantee that you will be able to purchase 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 served NOON TO 2:00 PM.

Family Day Ten Wonders in the Soil

9 • 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

Flowers in the theatre garden • 11:15 AM TO NOON AND 2:15 TO 3:00 PM

Gifts from the garden for children and adults on the main lawn • 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

Photo by photographer extraordinaire Bob DeBris • 10:00 AM TO NOON AND 2:00 TO 4:00 PM

Grand, Franks & Dodge 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 advance 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 lunches below. Your lunch tickets will be mailed with your confirmation.

RESERVATION FORM

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

Address _____ No. of teens _____ No. of children 3 to 12 _____

Please specify:

Lunches include french fries, condiments, watermelon, and choice from below.

Grilled Hamburger \$12 × _____ (NO.) = \$ _____

Grilled Cheeseburger \$12 × _____ (NO.) = \$ _____

Grilled Chicken Burger \$12 × _____ (NO.) = \$ _____

Grilled Garden Burger \$12 × _____ (NO.) = \$ _____

All-Beef Hotdog \$12 × _____ (NO.) = \$ _____

Payment Method: ☐ Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Exp. Date _____

Card Number _____

Signature _____

Volunteer Profile: John Vasi

QUIETLY STANDING OUT FROM THE CROWD



COURTESY PHOTO

John Vasi

JOHN VASI FIRST visited Lotusland long before it was open to the public with his friend Steve Timbrook, who was then working at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. John was smitten after this initial tour and visited the garden many times in later years, frequently bringing his wife and out-of-town visitors to share the beauty of Madame's spectacular estate.

After retiring from his administrative library career at UC Santa Barbara, John discovered there was time in his life to volunteer. He describes an accidental

meeting with Steve five years ago in a local coffee shop as fateful. John shared his love of Lotusland with Steve who had since become the Executive Director of the garden. Steve encouraged John to consider becoming a docent. John hesitated and mentioned that he had no botanical background, to which Steve replied, "That is why we have a training program." John signed up and became a member of the 2003 docent-training class. John says that he was "truly impressed with the quality and organization of the program" and says he would have honestly paid to hear the lectures. He found the enthusiasm of all he encountered infectious and was impressed by how well the volunteers were treated.

John has always been a dabbler with plants at home, but moving to Santa Barbara in 1981 opened up areas of gardening he had never dreamed of. His time at Lotusland over the past five years resulted in a growing fondness for aloes, agaves, and succulents, all of which have been added to his garden. John has always been involved with library organizations both through his job and as a volunteer. He was president of the Santa Barbara Public Library Board of Directors for several years and sat on Santa Barbara County Library advisory committees. When he's not gardening or volunteering at Lotusland,

John enjoys his woodworking and motorcycling hobbies.

John quietly stands out from the crowd as a very special volunteer. Spending most of his time at the garden as a docent, John's list of "extra" duties is admirable. Almost always the first to sign up when a call goes out for volunteer assistance, John can be found among other places, at envelope stuffing sessions, pouring wine at special events, and scooping ice cream or managing mural painting at Members' Family Day. John volunteered to be trained to drive the electric carts so that he might assist with special tours for those who are unable to walk and he regularly leads wheelchair tours of the garden. While serving as a Tour Facilitator, John effortlessly assigns visitors to docents and handles any special needs that may arise with grace and confidence.

John has the ability to satisfy the most inquisitive and demanding groups of special visitors and is called upon to mentor prospective docents enrolled in training. He says he loves the camaraderie he experiences with docents, sharing plant information and good stories about their tours. We are most fortunate to have such a dedicated and versatile volunteer.

Thank you John for everything you do for Lotusland.
—Debbie Hild

Palm Lecture

With DR. DONALD HODEL
SATURDAY, JUNE 16 • 1:30 TO 4:00 PM

PALM TREES ARE INSTANTLY recognizable to most people. They are widely used in all kinds of media—from movie sets to cartoons—to represent a tropical setting or, in stark contrast, a desert oasis. Their great diversity of sizes and types means that there is a palm for any landscape use.

On Saturday, June 16, Lotusland will host world-renowned palm

expert Dr. Donald Hodel for an illustrated talk covering the natural history and biology of palms, profiling the most common species and giving a brief overview of their culture and management. After the lecture, Hodel will lead a walking tour of some of Lotusland's palms. The event includes wine and hors d'oeuvres.

Please reserve your space by using the coupon on page 15.



VIRGINIA HAYES

Congratulations, Virginia!



Virginia Hayes

LOTUSLAND'S CURATOR, Virginia Hayes, received a Spirit of Service Award for Outstanding Media Coverage from Looking Good Santa Barbara, a city-sponsored community organization dedicated to keeping Santa Barbara a lovely place to live, work, and visit.

Virginia writes a weekly gardening column for the *Santa Barbara Independent* and often addresses topics such as water conservation and recycling. She also shares the knowledge she has gained about sustainable gardening during her 15 years at Lotusland. The award is for her "ongoing commitment to increase public awareness of recycling, graffiti, and/or litter issues in a positive and solution-oriented manner."

Garden Tour

With VIRGINIA HAYES
SATURDAY, JUNE 9
9:15 AM TO 4:00 PM
(GATES OPEN AT 9:00 AM)

VIRGINIA HAYES HAS put together another fun day of touring gardens on Saturday, June 9. Participants will enjoy fine gardens, good company, and a luscious lunch at Lotusland. The bus will depart Lotusland at 9:15 AM and return by 4:00 PM. Please plan to arrive at 9:00 AM to facilitate this early departure.

The fee of \$90 for Lotusland members and \$110 for nonmembers covers transportation, admission, and a buffet lunch. Space is *very* limited. Please use the coupon on page 15 to reserve your space.

A Farewell from Mike Bush

TOWERING, STATELY wine palms. Rainbow iridescence from shimmering abalone enclosing the aloe pond. Globally important cycads. Euphorbias menacingly reaching earthward in the fog. Grotesque little figures mulling about the Theatre Garden. All this and more I

will recall when thinking of Lotusland.

I am writing to let you know that I have resigned my position as Lotusland's Executive Director. While Jeannie and I were here, Lotusland made a tremendous impression on us both. All along we have been nurtured by a wonderful staff—both paid and volunteer—and

they have made our work easier and more interesting. Thanks so much to all of you who were encouraging and supportive and showed us the "Santa Barbara ropes"—and those of you who welcomed us into your homes, your gardens, and your hearts.

Thank You to Our Garden Benefactors

Mr. & Mrs. Chad Dreier
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick W. Gluck
Harold & Diana Frank
Family Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Hugunin
Mr. & Mrs. William W. Nicholson
Mrs. Andy Pearson
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Shea
Ms. Beverly Smaniotto
Mrs. Edward E. Stepanek
Ms. Jeanne C. Thayer
Mr. Jack Baker, Wallis Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Woods

Mother's Day Tour and Tea

SATURDAY, MAY 12 • 1:30 TO 4:00 PM

Treat your mother, grandmother, or someone important in your life to a special afternoon at Lotusland on Saturday, May 12, the day before Mother's Day. Tea and light refreshments will be served on the terrace throughout the afternoon.

You may take a docent-led tour or wander the gardens on your own on a self-guided tour.

Please join us for a leisurely and lovely afternoon.

To register, use the coupon on page 15.

Where the Wild Things Are

MODJADJI CYCAD (*ENCEPHALARTOS TRANSVENOSUS*)

NOT TOO FAR from world-renowned Kruger National Park in the Northern Province of South Africa is a spectacular sight that most of Kruger's visitors will never even hear about, let alone see. But the opportunity to walk among the world's largest concentration of a single cycad species makes a visit to the Modjadji Nature Preserve unforgettable for traveling plant enthusiasts and well worth adding to their itinerary.



Modjadji Nature Preserve has the world's largest stand of a single species of cycad.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN TIMBROOK

With trunks up to 40 feet high, Modjadji cycad is the world's tallest cycad species.

The Modjadji cycad (*Encephalartos transvenosus*) is the tallest of the cycads, reaching to more than 40 feet and forming forests of single trunked trees with average heights of 16 to 26 feet. The most spectacular stand is in the self-governing state of Lebowa at Modjadji Kraal where it has been protected by a succession of six Modjadji Rain Queens of the Balubado tribe. Traditionally the title is passed to the queen's eldest daughter, but the last Rain Queen died

childless at the age of 27 in 2005. Her mother, however, established the 754-acre Modjadji Nature Preserve in 1983 so that this forest remains protected.

The Lebowa government has started a nursery to propagate Modjadji cycad from the prolific annual crop of seeds in the Preserve. Sale of nursery plants to the public has greatly reduced poaching of wild specimens and helps ensure the species continues to thrive in the wild.

—Steven Timbrook

SAVE THE DATE

Lotusland Celebrates

PETER PAN'S LOTUSLAND

WHERE YOU NEVER GROW UP!

SUNDAY * JULY 22, 2007 * 4.00 PM

Join us for a trip to Never Never Land

Benefactor \$5,000 (ten tickets, five VIP parking passes and a special gift)

Patron Table Host \$3,500 (ten tickets and a VIP parking pass)

Patron \$1,000 (two tickets)

Tickets \$275 each

Invitations will be mailed in mid-June. Remember, this event always sells out!
Please contact Anne Dewey, Director of Development at 805.969.3767, extension 105 for more information.

Lotusland Members

We Welcome New Members Who Joined in December 2006, January and February 2007

GARDEN PATRON

Mr. & Mrs. William J. Calise, Jr.

LEVEL IV

Tim & Robin Willis

LEVEL III

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Barry
Mr. & Mrs. William Borgers
Mr. Sandy Crancer
Ms. Maureen Fialkoff
Louise & Ted Gaylord
Mr. & Mrs. David Goldmuntz
Mr. Gordon Hardey & Mr. Richard Sanchez
Mr. & Mrs. Jerrold Hauptman
Errol Jahnke & Marilyn Jorgenson
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Mr. & Mrs. Brian Kelly
Danny & Stephanie Kwock
Ms. Lisa Loiacono
Mr. & Mrs. John MacFarlane
John & Elizabeth McGovern
Ms. Patricia Millington & Ms. Claire Turner
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Mr. & Mrs. Fred W. Perutz
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pratt
Matthew & Katherine Stewart

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Ms. Elizabeth Ashe
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Karen & Bob Brodersen
Ms. Patricia Callan
Mr. Gil Cardona
Carlos & Liliana Casariego
Rob & Ann Church
Ms. Sally Cole
Noah & Rebecca Daniels
Mr. Arden Day
Will & Julie Dere
Ms. Diana Dillaway & Mr. David Olsen
Ms. Suzanne Elledge
Scott & Sandy Foraker
Ms. Atoosa Guity & Mr. Martin Kremenstein
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Hainkel
Sean Harper & Stella Harpothian
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Harrington
Kim & Allan Howard
Miss Debbie Hughey
Mr. Marc Isgett & Mr. Tom Marlow
Mr. & Mrs. Weston L. Johnson
Larry & Carol Kline
Mr. Mark Kram
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Mr. James D. Macari
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Joe & Missy Miletich
Ms. Mary Mohr & Mr. Chris Broman
Cindy Morrison
Mr. & Mrs. Wade H. Nichols
Charles & Mileana Ratliff
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Ms. Leslie Rowe
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Schnetz
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Seagoe
Mr. William R. Snively

Kevin & Andrea Stark
Mrs. Diane Starr
Melinda Staveley
Ms. Nadine Turner
Lynn & Linda Vine
Ms. Rebecca Welti & Ms. Clarissa Cornwell
Ms. Libby Whaley
Ms. Jo Wideman
Ms. Adela Wysocki
Mr. & Mrs. Mamoru Yamaoka

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Mrs. Lee Appleton & Ms. Rosalee Appleton
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Dr. Renate Baumgart
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Ms. Virginia White
Mr. & Mrs. James Wilson
Mr. Christian Wolfbrandt
Dr. Leslie Wolowitz

Members Who Have Increased Their Level of Support

December 2006, January and February 2007

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Mr. & Mrs. Frederick W. Gluck
Mr. & Mrs. William W. Nicholson
Mrs. Andy Pearson
Ms. Jeanne C. Thayer

GARDEN PATRON

Gay & Tony Browne
Mr. Bruce Gregg
Mr. & Mrs. John Mozart
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Mr. & Mrs. Rick Vitelle

LEVEL III

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Mr. & Mrs. Stefen Riesenfeld

LEVEL II

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Mr. & Mrs. Ken Beard
Ms. Suzan Boatman & Mr. Phil Clarkson
Ms. Lois Burwell
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Mr. Frederick Guy Walker
Ms. Bets Wienecke & Mr. Peter Haslund

Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

December 2006, January and February 2007

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Judge & Mrs. John G. Davies
Mrs. Karen Garrolini
Mr. Mike Iven & Ms. Roberta Bloom
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Millman
Ms. K. M. Nodinger
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Rollé
Ms. Rebecca R. Rutledge

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George & Sue Frampton
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& Mr. M. Stephen Weatherford
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Tichenor & Thorp Architects

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in Honor of Their Grandchildren

MISH WEST COAST JEWELRY SHOW

Mish Tworowski of Mish New York

PLANTS

William & Angele Strnad

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in appreciation of hosting
Annual Board Meeting at Lotusland
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Harrison Design Associates, Tony Spann
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Mr. & Mrs. John Hopper
Mr. Harlis Maggard
in honor of Larry Disharoon's birthday
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IN MEMORY OF MRS. PAULINE MAGGARD

Mr. Harlis Maggard

IN MEMORY OF DR. PAUL RIEMENSCHNEIDER

Mr. Harlis Maggard

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 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

Spring Twilight Tour

Saturday, April 21 • 4:30 TO 7:30 PM

CHECK ONE: ☐ Docent-guided tour ☐ Self-guided tour
\$50/members • \$65/nonmembers

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

Storybook Tour

Saturday, April 28 • 9:15 AM TO NOON

\$40/one adult member with one child; \$10 for each additional child • \$45/nonmembers; \$15 for each child

No. of adults attending _____ No. of children attending _____ No. of cars _____ Total _____

Mother's Day Tour and Tea

Saturday, May 12 • 1:30 TO 4:00 PM

CHECK ONE: ☐ Docent-guided tour ☐ Self-guided tour
\$40/members • \$55/nonmembers

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

Garden Tour

With VIRGINIA HAYES, CURATOR OF THE LIVING COLLECTION

Saturday, June 9 • 9:15 AM TO 4:00 PM (GATES OPEN AT 9:00 AM)

\$90/members • \$110/nonmembers

INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION, ADMISSION AND BUFFET LUNCH

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

Palm Lecture

With DR. DONALD HODEL

Saturday, June 16 • 1:30 TO 4:00 PM

\$50/members • \$65/nonmembers

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

Digital Photography Workshop

With LARRY FRIESEN

Saturday, July 14 • 9:00 AM TO NOON

\$55/members • \$65/nonmembers

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

Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation

695 Ashley Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Santa Barbara
California
Permit No. 163



Spring and Summer 2007 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 2007 at Lotusland.

Saturday, April 21

Spring Twilight Tour

4:30 TO 7:30 PM

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

Saturday, April 28

Storybook Tour

9:15 AM TO NOON

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

Saturday, May 12

Mother's Day Tour and Tea

1:30 TO 4:00 PM

See details on page 11 and use the coupon on page 15 to register.

Saturday, May 19

Members' Family Day

Buried Treasure:

Hidden Wonders in the Soil

10 AM TO 4 PM

See details on pages 8 and 9 and use the coupon on page 15 to register.

Saturday, June 9

Garden Tour

9:15 AM TO 4:00 PM

See details on page 11 and use the coupon on page 15 to register.

Saturday, June 16

Palm Lecture with Dr. Donald Hodel

1:30 TO 4:00 PM

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

Saturday, July 14

Digital Photography Workshop with Larry Friesen

9:00 AM TO NOON

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

Sunday, July 22

Lotusland Celebrates

Peter Pan's Lotusland

Where You Never Grow Up!

4:00 TO 8:00 PM

See "Save the Date" on page 12.
Invitations will be mailed in June.

Saturday, July 29

LotusFest

2:00 TO 5:30 PM

See "Save the Date" on page 4.
A registration coupon will be in the Summer *Lotusland Newsletter* for Members.



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 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM (except between mid-November and mid-February). Family tours are child and parent friendly and are separate from regular adult tours. Adult members \$35 or use admission passes; ages five to 18, \$10; four and under, free. Call 805.969.9990 for reservations 9 AM–5 PM, M–F and 9 AM–1 PM on Saturdays.