



# LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS ■ VOLUME 17 NO. 2 ■ SPRING 2008

## Lotusland's New Executive Director Gwen Stauffer

**W**E ARE VERY PLEASED to announce the appointment of Gwen Stauffer as the new Executive Director of Ganna Walska Lotusland. Gwen comes to us from her position as the Executive Director of the New England Wild Flower Society, the oldest plant conservation organization in the country, headquartered in Framingham, Massachusetts.

Gwen says, "I fell in love with Lotusland during my first visit to the gardens, years ago. It is an honor and pleasure to lead this fine organization through a new era of growth and progress." She will officially begin her directorship on May 15.

Lotusland's Search Committee worked long and hard to identify and select the ideal candidate. The chair of the Search Committee and new Board President Mason Farrell said, "Gwen's obvious leadership skills, wide-ranging experience and passion for gardens make her the perfect choice to lead Lotusland."

Gwen is a trained horticulturist and garden designer, hailing from southeast Pennsylvania where she grew up with a family of organic gardeners, ecologists and conservationists. After receiving her Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design from Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture in 1982, Gwen worked in the commercial horticultural industry as well as in public horticulture. In 1992, she earned her Master of Science in Public Horticulture Leadership and Administration through the prestigious Longwood Graduate Program at the University of Delaware.

From 1993 until 2001, Gwen was the Deputy Director of Gardens and Physical Plant for Hillwood Museum

and Gardens in Washington, DC and in 2001, she was appointed Director of the Gardens and Preserve for Callaway in Pine Mountain, Georgia. Gwen became the New England Wild Flower Society's Executive Director in 2005. The society's botanical garden, Garden in the Woods, is New England's premier wildflower garden with its more than 1,500 native plant species and cultivars.

Gwen likes to travel, hike and garden for career and pleasure. She lives with her two dogs and seeks her get-aways in warm waters to scuba dive.

We look forward to Gwen's arrival on May 15, just two days before our annual Members' Family Day on May 17. Gwen will be there greeting our members, and we know you will be as thrilled with her appointment as we are. If you can't make it to Members' Family Day, there will be many more opportunities to welcome Gwen in the coming months.



Gwen Stauffer

COURTESY PHOTO

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## President's Letter

IT HAS BEEN another great year at Lotusland. We completed several major garden projects in 2007, and the year was filled with an exceptional variety of fabulous events, workshops and tours. As you can tell from what follows, we have much to celebrate.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A MAJOR UNDERTAKING, the Japanese garden project, was completed. We drained, repaired and filled our beautiful Japanese garden pond. The shade palm garden was re-opened thanks to Don Hodel's generous donation of palms. The biennial docent training program trained 35 top-notch volunteers to join our terrific docent corps.

Significant grants for our outstanding Fourth Grade Outreach Program, our sustainability programs and much-needed garden equipment, as well as other valuable projects, were received throughout 2007.

The long anticipated *Ganna Walska Lotusland: Collections & Horticulture* by Virginia Hayes and Steven Timbrook debuted at a sold-out book signing party in October. It is a companion volume to the popular *Ganna Walska Lotusland: The Garden and its Creators* by Sharon Crawford.

Lotusland received local, national and international recognition in a variety of publications including *Santa Barbara Magazine*, *Motor Home* magazine, *Elle Décor*, *Sub Tropical Gardening* (Australia), *Your Wedding Day*, *Architectures À Vivre Maisons* (France), *Montecito Magazine*, *Tinta Latina* and *Central Coast Magazine*. We were also featured in local newspapers, television and radio.

### MEMBERSHIP AND GIVING

OUR MEMBERSHIP REVENUE continues to grow. Funds raised through membership and our Annual Appeal are crucial to operating Lotusland, and we are grateful for your support.

The special party for our upper-level supporters was at Joey Pearson's beautiful Montecito home and garden.



Kisa Heyer

COURTESY PHOTO

Her remarkable collection of rare pre-Columbian art, modern art and garden sculptures was enjoyed by all.

*The Lotus Society*, our planned giving program, is vital to Lotusland's growth and preservation. I am pleased to report that it has grown to 83 members in the six years since its creation. The annual luncheon at the delightful home and garden of Bruce Gregga and William Laman will be long remembered.

### GREAT EVENTS

WE HAD A STELLAR YEAR of Lotusland events. *Lotusland Celebrates: Peter Pan's Lotusland* was the most successful ever. A highlight was the auction of the fabulous lotus brooch designed and generously donated by Mish Tworowski of Mish New York.

Our always popular Members' Family Day—this year *Buried Treasure! Hidden Wonders in the Soil*—was filled to capacity. Other well-attended events included *LotusFest*, a Sustainable Gardening Workshop, Aloe Outing, Bird Walk, Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop, Spring Garden Tour, plus three Twilight Tours and two photography workshops.

### MANAGEMENT NEWS

I AM SO PLEASED that Gwen Stauffer has accepted the position of Lotusland's Executive Director (*see cover story*). The Executive Director Search Committee, with the help of a search firm, did a tremendous job of attracting exceptional candidates. The committee and I think

## 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.



that Gwen is a terrific choice, and we look forward to welcoming her on May 15.

## SERVICE TO LOTUSLAND

AFTER 24 YEARS of board service, Arthur Gaudi was recognized as a Lifetime Honorary Trustee. We also say goodbye to Ella Brittingham, who is stepping down after two terms as a Trustee. We will miss them both greatly.

## LOOKING FORWARD

WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN another exciting year at Lotusland with the completion of the tile restoration project, thanks to Carol Valentine's generous donation (see

future article in Summer newsletter). We welcomed two new Trustees, William Daugherty and Ian Fisher, at our annual meeting. They each offer expertise and energy that will enhance our Board.

Be sure to save these dates on your calendar. Gwen's first Lotusland event will be the ever-popular Members' Family Day on May 17. This year's theme is *It's a Jungle Out There*. Our annual celebration of Lotusland's namesake, *LotusFest*, is on July 19. The *Lotusland Celebrates* Committee is busy planning another fabulous event, this year titled *Out of Lotusland: An African Adventure*, to take place on July 27. Check our quarterly *Lotusland Newsletter for Members* to learn about the enticing

variety of events planned for the remainder of 2008.

It has been such a pleasure serving as Lotusland's President over the past two years. I have so enjoyed the opportunity to work with the fabulous members, staff, volunteers and Board and would like to offer a special thanks to all for their support. I am delighted to welcome Mason Farrell as our new leader. Mason has been involved with Lotusland for six years, with his most recent involvement as Chair of the Search Committee and as a member of the Executive Committee. I look forward to continuing to serve on the Board, and hope to see you all in the garden soon.

—Kisa Heyer

## Trustee Ella Brittingham Retires

ELLA BRITTINGHAM is stepping down after serving two terms on Lotusland's Board of Directors.

Ella has served on the Lotusland Celebrates Committee since 2001, including three years as co-chair. She was a valuable member of the Development Committee for several years during her tenure on the board and served as its chair for the past two years.

She also lent her expertise to the Horticulture, House Renovation and Nominating Committees.

We will miss Ella's creative ideas and endless energy. The Trustees and Staff are grateful for her many years of diligent service and are happy to hear that she promises to stay involved at Lotusland after she and her family return from a year in Spain.



Ella Brittingham

RICK CARTER

## Spring Twilight Tour

SATURDAY, MAY 31  
4:30 TO 7:00 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.

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

## WATCH FOR YOUR INVITATION!

Opera Santa Barbara's  
*Opera in Extraordinary Places*  
PRESENTS

## Opera al Fresco

SATURDAY, APRIL 26  
4:00 PM

in Lotusland's Theatre Garden

All Lotusland members will receive an invitation to this event. We are pleased that Opera Santa Barbara chose Lotusland as one of its venues for this popular series.

# Arthur Gaudi Retires from the Board



Arthur Gaudi

THE “FOUNDING” ERA of Ganna Walska Lotusland has come to an end with the retirement from the Board of Arthur R. Gaudi, the last of the five original Trustees who took on the great responsibility of overseeing the transition of Lotusland from a private estate to a public garden upon Madame Walska’s death in 1984. With 24 years as a Trustee, Arthur has served Lotusland and its public longer than any other Trustee. In recognition of his outstanding dedication to Lotusland, the Board of Trustees has named Arthur R. Gaudi Lotusland’s sixth Lifetime Honorary Trustee.

For his first 20 years as a Trustee, Arthur held the office of Secretary-Treasurer and then served an additional four years as its Secretary. During that period he prepared the minutes of some 250 Board meetings. He said of completing those of the February 2008 meeting, his final set of minutes, “I assure you I will look back with fondness on many things from my time on the Board, but writing the minutes will not be one of them.”

Recently I talked with Arthur about his long history with Lotusland, and he told me that three things stood out in his mind as particularly significant. The first was his introduction to Lotusland

and Madame Walska in 1974. “Reginald Faletti, whose firm handled Madame Walska’s accounting needs, asked me to work with him to prepare an estate plan for Madame. Madame Walska was the most extraordinary person I’ve ever met. I made many visits to Lotusland during the ten years I served as her attorney and, although she was a very private person, I feel I got a good sense of her strong character and feeling for Lotusland. She was very determined and had a very real sense of *noblesse oblige*. An example of the latter was her great concern that generous bequests be made for all her staff as we were drawing up her will.

“The second was being asked to serve on the Lotusland Board when it was being formed by Reggie. I had served on several boards in Santa Barbara, including a term as President of the Music Academy of the West, but I felt that Lotusland brought a special responsibility and excitement as we were starting afresh, and everything we did as a Board would be vitally important to the long-term success of Lotusland.

“The third important thing about my 24 years of involvement as a Trustee is the strong partnership that developed among the Trustees, staff, volunteers and members as we all worked to open Lotusland to the public and create the programs, from sustainable horticulture to environmental education, that recognize the special character of Lotusland. I feel we have worked together in an outstanding way to realize Madame Walska’s charge in her will to ‘develop Lotusland to its maximum capacity into the most outstanding center of horticultural significance and of educational use.’”

I asked Arthur what he felt were his own most important contributions to Lotusland. “It was not all my effort by any means, although I was chairman of the committee that set it in motion, but I think creation of *The Lotus Society*, which recognizes gifts to Lotusland’s endowment, will turn out to be vital to Lotusland’s long-term success. I remember Bob Emmons’ leadership during his

time as Board President, when he urged us to look forward not five to ten years, but much longer when we envisioned how we would like Lotusland to evolve.

“Perhaps the most satisfying experience I’ve had was working with Jeanne Thayer on the Topiary Garden Capital Campaign to restore that garden in honor of Carol Valentine. We were so very successful, and it was wonderful to be able to recognize Carol’s contributions to Lotusland during her long service as its Board President. With the exception of Madame Walska, Carol is the one person I would say is most responsible for Lotusland’s success.”

I asked Arthur why he chose the restoration of the Geranium Terrace for his most significant personal gift to Lotusland. “I just felt that the Terrace had fallen a long way from the beauty it had during Madame’s lifetime. Also, you could say that Barbara Siemon entered my life and convinced me I wanted to do it.”

I talked with Arthur about the changes we had both seen in Lotusland’s Board during our 20 years together. At the beginning, he and I were the youngest people around the table at Board meetings, and it was a much smaller table. Then the election of Meryll Brown to the Board began what Arthur refers to as “the youth movement.” From an original five members, the Board has grown to 20, and at last February’s meeting only one Trustee may have been older than we were.

Arthur told me that of several restoration projects in Lotusland’s Master Plan, those most important to him are two areas not open to the public at this time. “I would love to see the water stairs that rise from behind the Japanese garden waterfall to the wishing well and the long allée from the wishing well to the lotus pool in the water gardens brought back to their former glory and added to the public tours.” Contributions to those two projects would be an especially significant way to honor a man who has done so much to ensure that Lotusland is here for us to enjoy today and look forward to enjoying far into the future. —Steven Timbrook

# LotusFest!

**SATURDAY, JULY 19**

**2:00 TO 5:00 PM**

*Please join us for this celebration of the spectacular flower that is Lotusland's namesake.*

July is peak blooming season,  
and guests will have the opportunity to view  
these uniquely beautiful flowers while enjoying  
a relaxing afternoon at this casual, fun event.

*Enjoy these afternoon delights:*

*Wine tasting from Santa Barbara County's premier vintners*

*Mellow jazz*

*Delectable hors d'oeuvres*

*Lotus lore galore*

*Lotus viewing*

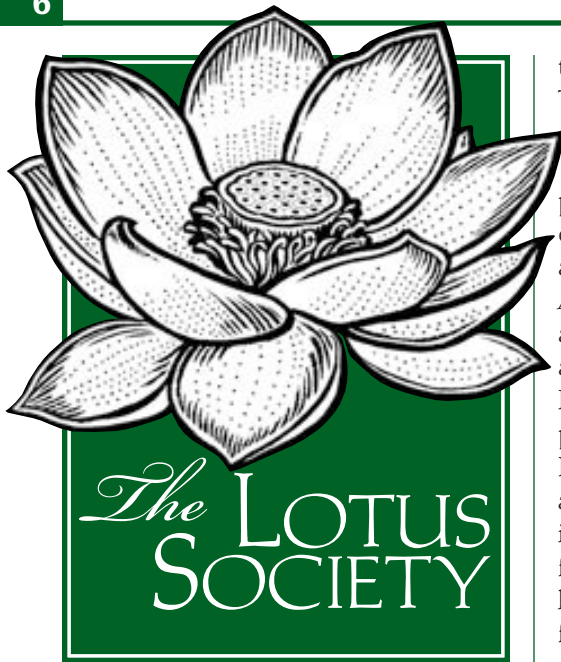
*Ikebana (the art of Japanese flower arranging)*

Lotus flowers open during the day and close at night.  
Prime viewing time during LotusFest will be until 3:00 or 4:00 PM,  
depending upon weather conditions, so make sure to allow time  
to savor the spectacular view of lotuses in bloom.

*Please note that this is the only notification of this event prior to the Summer newsletter.*

To register for this fun and enlightening event,  
please use the coupon on page 15 or visit our website at [www.lotusland.org](http://www.lotusland.org).





## DAVID MYRICK

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS I like to learn when I'm talking with someone about how they became interested in *The Lotus Society* is how much they know about Lotusland in general. When I had the pleasure of spending an hour with David Myrick recently at his Casa Dorinda home, that was absolutely unnecessary. After all, David not only is a native of Santa Barbara, but has written *Montecito and Santa Barbara*, a two-volume history of the area. *Volume II: The Days of the Great Estates* devotes two entire chapters to Tanglewood, Cuesta Linda and Lotusland, the three major eras in the development of what we now know as Lotusland. In fact, it was David's books that helped me learn not only about Lotusland's history when I was just getting started as Lotusland's Executive Director, but also how Lotusland fit into the larger history of Montecito and Santa Barbara in the hundred years from the 1880s to the 1980s.

"I've always been interested in history and geography," David told me, "although after I completed my degree in Business Administration from Babson College in Boston, my career spanned 33 years as a financial officer for Southern Pacific Railroad at their San Francisco headquarters." That experience led to his great interest in the railroads and mines of the far west, whose his-

tory he has documented in 13 volumes. The works are in separate series by state. The most recent, *Railroads of Nevada and Eastern California, Volume III*, was published in 2007. David is a member of the Bohemian Club in San Francisco, and one of his railroad books is *Rails Around the Bohemian Grove*, the club's annual summer campsite. "I also wrote a history of Telegraph Hill in San Francisco, so all together I have 16 books published, and I'm at work on Volume III of *Montecito and Santa Barbara*." In addition to being a prolific writer, David is an accomplished cartographer. His fine maps are indispensable parts of all his books, and he has prepared maps for other authors, as well.

David was born in the Cottage Hospital to Donald and Charlotte Myrick, who were both active in the social and philanthropic arenas of Santa Barbara. Donald, an avid nature photographer, donated his collection of hundreds of color slides of California native plants to Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and served as its Vice-President. He was also President of the Music Academy of the West and the Santa Barbara Club, as well as a Director of the Valley Club. Charlotte was a member of the Little Town Club and active in the St. Cecilia Society and the Junior League. David has a brother, Richard, who is an east coast artist, and a sister, Ricky Allen, an avid golfer living in Carpinteria.

Just like his parents before him, David is active in support of the local community and many of its cherished organizations and institutions. He serves on the Montecito Community Foundation Board and has served on the Board of the Montecito Association. One of his most significant contributions was as a member of the Board of the Casa del Herrero Foundation. He helped George Bass, grandson of the estate's founder, preserve that wonderful garden, home and Mr. Steedman's metalworking shop for the public. "I suppose my involvement with Casa del Herrero led to my wanting to help ensure the future of Lotusland by joining *The Lotus Society*," David told me. He decided that a charitable gift annuity was a good way for him to make an invest-

ment that pays him a lifetime quarterly income and then becomes part of Lotusland's endowment.

Thank you, David, for all you've done to bring the history of Montecito and Santa Barbara to life for all and for your generous support that will help to ensure that Lotusland remains a vital part of our community for generations to come.  
—Steven Timbrook



## NEW MEMBERS

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

Shelby C. Bowen  
in Memory of John C. Bowen  
Norah and Don Burwell  
William and Kathryn Calise  
Patricia Ann Jacquemin  
Gary and Della Rollé

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.

## NEW TO THE COLLECTIONS

# Bromeliad Introductions

**Y**UCCA DO NURSERY in Austin, Texas has a mission to introduce tough plants suitable for landscaping the harsh Texas environment. They specialize in drought and heat tolerant species and varieties of agaves, bromeliads, aloes and, of course, yuccas as well as shrubs and trees. Among the bromeliads that they propagate are several that have recently been planted at Lotusland.

The genus *Dyckia* occurs in dry areas of South America, growing in thorn bush and dry forests. Plants are well-adapted to the drought-prone ecosystems by having more or less succulent leaves that are well armed with marginal spines. An Argentine native, *Dyckia remotiflora* var. *montevidensis* grows as a compact rosette of shiny leaves. It eventually forms a dense clump as the plant makes many offsets.

One of the most desirable crosses between two different species of *Dyckia* resulted from hybridizing *D. choristaminæ* and *D. dawsonii*. It combines the



VIRGINIA HAYES

*Dyckia remotiflora* var. *montevidensis* is native to Uruguay near Montevideo.

narrow leaves of the former with the compact form and rich coloring of the latter. While this cross would never occur in nature, it makes a striking foliage plant for the collector.

Both of these new introductions are now on display at Lotusland. You will find them in the lower bromeliad garden near many other dry-growing bromeliads and succulents. —Virginia Hayes

## Rocks of Lotusland

MONDAY, APRIL 21 • 9:30 TO 11:30 AM

**M**ADAME WALSKA HAD a great eye for the unusual. Most of us think first of her collection of plants and flair for garden design, but soon realize that her talents extended to effective use of garden ornamentation. In addition to the amazing horticultural clock, giant clamshells, mosaics, tiles and statues is Madame Walska's spectacular collection of rocks and minerals. Scattered here and there in unexpected places, they adorn the gardens and patios like jewels.

Lotusland Research Associate Dr. Bruce Tiffney has photographed the entire collection of rocks in their garden locations and has carefully noted characteristics of each. His presentation will include historical references with detailed information about their origins. What makes the magnetite magnetic? Which rock is used in the lenses of the

best microscopes? Where is the "G" rock, and how did the letter G get there? Which rocks produce oil?

Dr. Tiffney received a dual degree in biology and geology from Boston University and his Ph.D. in botany from Harvard University, where he was affiliated with both the Gray Herbarium and the Arnold Arboretum. He taught at Yale University for ten years and served as Curator at Yale's Peabody Museum of Natural History. Dr. Tiffney became a professor in the UC Santa Barbara Geology Department in 1986 and is currently Dean of the UC Santa Barbara College of Creative Studies.

Join us to hear a bit about the beautiful, the unusual and the unexpected rocks in Madame Walska's landscape. Space is limited, so please register early by using the coupon on page 15.

—Debbie Hild



VIRGINIA HAYES

The cubic crystals of fluorite may be clear, yellow, green, blue, brown, black or purple as seen in this large specimen.



# Members' Family Day

## SATURDAY, MAY 17

Lotusland wishes to thank you, our members, for your support by hosting our 11th

Generously S  
*Thomas & Nancy Crawford, Jr.*

Activities w



COURTESY PHOTO



RICK CARTER



COURTESY PHOTO

Boxtales Theatre C  
 Face-painting, cartoon caricatures  
 Dress up in costumes and take home  
 Live calyp

## 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.

Due to the popularity of this event and to allow as many members as possible to attend,

**Lotusland requests ONLY ONE VEHICLE PER MEMBERSHIP.** No phone reservations, please.

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

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

Adult lunch includes a choice of grilled tri-tip, grilled chicken breast or spinach quiche,  
 served with green salad, vegetarian beans and a whole wheat bun.

Child lunch includes macaroni and cheese, green salad, vegetarian beans, and an elephant sugar cookie.

The deadline to order lunches is May 7.

A limited number of picnic blankets will be available, or you may 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.





# It's a Jungle Out There!

10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

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

sponsored by:  
in Honor of Their Grandchildren

will include:



RICK CARTER



RICK CARTER



COURTESY PHOTO

Company performing two shows in the theatre garden • 11:15 AM to noon and 2:15 to 3:00 PM  
 , games, activities and crafts from the garden for children and adults on the main lawn • 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
 a free jungle souvenir photo by photographer extraordinaire Bob DeBris • 10:00 AM to noon and 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
 solo and steel drum music by the Pan-A-Cea Trio on the main lawn • noon to 2:00 PM

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 3 to 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ No. of teens \_\_\_\_\_ No. of children 2 and under \_\_\_\_\_

### Adult Lunch:

Tri-tip \$12.50 × \_\_\_\_\_ (NO.) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chicken \$12.50 × \_\_\_\_\_ (NO.) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spinach Quiche \$12.50 × \_\_\_\_\_ (NO.) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Method:

☐ Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

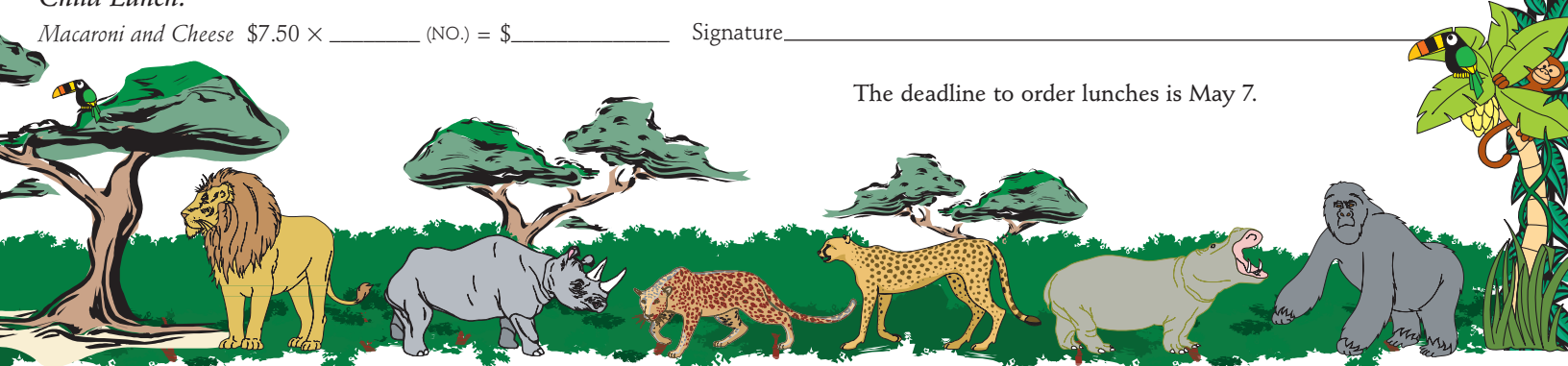
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

### Child Lunch:

Macaroni and Cheese \$7.50 × \_\_\_\_\_ (NO.) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The deadline to order lunches is May 7.



## Horticultural Happenings

### LOTUSLAND'S WATER STAIRS

*T*HE WATER STAIRS are a wonderful original feature of the Lotusland property. The stairs are located above the Japanese garden waterfall and, when first built, water flowed from the top of the stairs near the ornamental wishing well and into what is now the Japanese pond. The highly regarded landscape architect Peter Reidel and Mrs. E. Palmer Gavit, the owner of the property then known as Cuesta Linda, designed the water stairs in the 1920s.

The water stairs have not been in use for many years and, in fact, no one at Lotusland remembers seeing them in operation. They are in remarkably good shape considering their age and the limited amount of maintenance they

received over the years. They are level, the drains from basin to basin are not clogged and slight leaks have been found in only three of the 14 basins. The sandstone pathways on each side of the stairs are uneven and not safe for public use. An axis from the wishing well to the water gardens is a separate feature in the area. That pathway is unimproved and also closed to the public at this time.

Over the past few months, Lotusland Trustees and staff members have developed a plan to restore the water stairs, and I am pleased to report that donors have expressed interest in the project. The restoration project plan includes the installation of a re-circulating water system for the stairs, pathway and public access improvements, an appropriate landscaping and irrigation system, optional hardscape improvements, and estimated maintenance costs. Rehabilitation of the area around the wishing well at the top of the stairs will provide a gathering place for public viewing of the area. The plan for the axis to the water garden includes the restoration of the 4-by-300-foot red brick pathway from the wishing well at the top of the water stairs to the lotus pond in the water garden.

The Horticulture Committee has recommended appropriate plantings for the water stairs and water garden axis based on available historical records of the original landscape combined with Lotusland's current horticultural practices. Symmetrical rows of shrubs or small trees will be used to screen

the parking lot and Japanese garden. Container plantings may be used around the wishing well, and an ivy ground-cover will border the water stairs. Plantings with insectary value will be used in the landscape when appropriate.

There is great excitement about this long-awaited restoration plan. It may not be ready to see on your next visit to Lotusland, but we hope to see the water stairs flowing in the very near future.

—Michael Iven

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in making a gift to this important project, please contact our Director of Development, Anne Dewey, at [andewey@lotusland.org](mailto:andewey@lotusland.org) or 805.969.3767, extension 105.



*Historically, columnar conifers, probably cypress species or cultivars, bordered the 300' brick walkway from the top of the water stairs to the water gardens.*



*The restoration of the water stairs will include a recirculation water pump and plant choices congruent with the original landscape design.*

PHOTOS FROM LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

## Pasadena Gardens Tour

### WITH VIRGINIA HAYES

SUNDAY, APRIL 27 • 8:30 AM TO 6:30 PM

*F*OR MORE THAN ten years, the Open Days Program, sponsored by the Garden Conservancy of America, has unlocked the gates to hundreds of America's very best private gardens. Gardens that are recruited for the program are chosen only if

they excel in maintenance, design and plant selection.

Join Curator Virginia Hayes on a day-long excursion to visit some of these exemplary gardens in Pasadena, a city that has long been called the "Garden City."

Admission of \$115 for Lotusland members or \$125 for nonmembers includes bus transportation (pickup locations in confirmation), lunch in Pasadena and entrance to six gardens.

Please use the coupon on page 15 to reserve your space.



## Volunteer Profile: Bob Rottenberg

### EAST COAST TRANSPLANT FLOURISHES IN ZONE 10



Bob Rottenberg

**B**OB ROTTENBERG, a self-proclaimed former dyed-in-the-wool easterner, was born, raised and educated in Boston and spent much of his adult working life in Connecticut, where he developed a serious passion for gardening. His family thought he had taken leave of his senses when he retired from his profession as a physician and decided to move across the country. "Why would anyone want to leave the northeast, the hub of the universe?" they wondered.

In 1998 Bob and his wife Rana moved directly across the street from Lotusland. Shortly after their move, they received a gracious invitation to tour Lotusland. Bob vividly remembers his first visit. "It was a misty, foggy day and the garden looked magnificent." He and his wife were guided on a private tour led by Lotusland docent and trustee Nancy Wood. Looking back on it, Bob realizes that it was an absolutely perfect tour. Soon after the visit, Bob and Rana became members of Lotusland and have supported the garden through membership ever since.

As a new retiree, Bob discovered he had plenty of free time on his hands and hoped to spend much of it gardening. He found that in spite of being an avid gardener, he knew almost nothing about the local plants and seasons in Santa Barbara. He wondered, "Where

are the peonies?" Deciding that he needed more education, he enrolled in the Master Gardeners program at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden simultaneously with enrolling in the docent training program at Lotusland. Bob successfully completed his training in 2002 and has led public tours of the garden for more than six years. In addition, Bob is a tour facilitator. He greets docents and guests at the Visitor Center on his tour days, sorts out the various special needs of the visitors, and assigns them to a tour guide before going out on his own tour.

An amiable guy with a cherubic grin, Bob has made many friends at the garden. Newer docents know him as one of the speakers at the receptions we hold every other summer for prospective docents. Bob's classic "Top Ten Reasons for Being a Lotusland Docent" list is always a big hit.

When not leading tours or tending his own garden, Bob and Rana like to travel. In recent years they have traveled

to India, Africa, China, Southeast Asia and Mexico. Bob has a serious interest in photography and is an active member and officer of a local camera club. "Travel and photography are perfect mates," he says, "and everywhere I go I take close notice of the local flora and fauna and am amazed at how many of the plants I see are represented at Lotusland." He delights in the opportunity to photograph Lotusland throughout the year and has developed an appreciation for the more subtle seasonal variations of Santa Barbara.

Bob loves what he describes as the "idiosyncratic garden design" of Madame Walska. "It's a garden with a distinct personality," he says. "Like me, Madame Walska was sometimes wrong, but never in doubt." Bob's enthusiasm for and devotion to Madame's garden is a wonderful asset, and we are pleased to note that he is indeed a transplant that is flourishing in Santa Barbara.

Thank you Bob for all that you do for Lotusland.  
—Debbie Hild

## Mother's Day Tour and Tea

**SATURDAY, MAY 10 • 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 10, 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

## ECHINOOPSIS CHILOENSIS

**I**N THE AUSTRAL SPRING of 2006, my wife Jan and I were driving north from Santiago, Chile, in search of Chilean wine palms (see Winter 2007, Vol. 16, No. 1). As the habitat became drier and more and more columnar cacti came into view, suddenly we saw one that was thick with clusters of bright red, tubular flowers that looked anything but cactus-like. We pulled over for a closer look and discovered that those red flowers were a mistletoe, *Tristerix aphylla*, that were popping out of the sides of each column of a large specimen of quisco, *Echinopsis chiloensis*.

The only indication of the mistletoe



PAUL MILLS

Long-spined individuals of *Echinopsis Chiloensis* resist mistletoe infection.

was the red flowers and, indeed, this species of *Tristerix*, as its specific epithet, *aphylla*, lets you know, never bears leaves, making it entirely dependent on its host for all of its nutritional needs. Other members of the genus do have chlorophyll-bearing leaves and supplement the water and nutrients provided by their host with the products of their own photosynthesis.

*Echinopsis chiloensis* can reach heights of 25 feet, and the stems are four to five inches in diameter. The spines are in clusters with one to four central spines up to two inches long surrounded by eight to twelve radial spines that are somewhat shorter. It turns out that the length of the spines has a bearing on how likely it is that an individual cactus becomes infected with the mistletoe. Research has shown that within a population of *Echinopsis chiloensis*, taller plants and plants with shorter spines are more likely to bear mistletoe than shorter plants with longer spines. This is related to the dispersal of the mistletoe seeds by the Chilean mockingbird, which feeds on the mistletoe fruit.

The taller plants provide the best perches for the birds, and the mistletoe seeds, which pass unharmed through the digestive tract, are deposited in a



STEVEN TIMBROOK

*Tristerix aphylla*, like other tubular red-flowered species in the genus, is pollinated by hummingbirds.

sticky mass for additional parasite load on an already infected plant or have the potential to infect a new host plant. Under proper conditions, the seeds can germinate and penetrate the tissue of the cactus where they then grow entirely within the stem, only revealing their presence when clusters of red flowers erupt from the stem.

As for the effect of spine length, there is some thought that longer spines prevent perching by birds. Another factor is that seeds deposited on spines require a long radicle (the "root" portion of the newly germinated seedling) to reach and penetrate the epidermis of the cactus. *Tristerix aphylla* radicles are very slow-growing and can reach lengths of three and one-half inches in 43 days, which is unique among mistletoe species.

What price does the cactus pay for hosting mistletoe? It turns out that infected cacti produce significantly fewer buds, flowers and fruits than similar-sized cacti without mistletoe. Also, the heavier the infestation, the lower the cactus flower production.

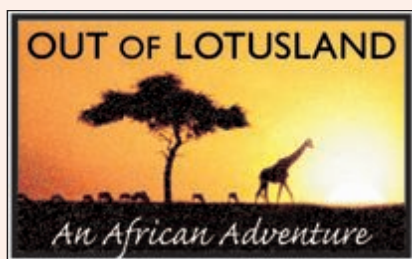
Although you can see *Echinopsis chiloensis* at Lotusland, you'll have to travel to Chile for the mistletoe. Jan and I can assure you that it isn't one you'll want to be kissing under.

—Steven Timbrook

SAVE THE DATE

**Lotusland Celebrates**

SUNDAY, JULY 27 • 4:00 PM



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 2007, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2008

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DECEMBER 2007, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2008

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DECEMBER 2007, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2008

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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 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

## Rocks of Lotusland

With DR. BRUCE TIFFNEY

Monday, April 21 • 9:30 TO 11:30 AM (GATES OPEN AT 9:00 AM)

\$35/members or one member pass

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

## Pasadena Gardens Tour

With VIRGINIA HAYES, CURATOR OF THE LIVING COLLECTION

Sunday, April 27 • 8:30 AM TO 6:30 PM

\$115/members • \$125/nonmembers

INCLUDES LUXURY-COACH TRANSPORTATION, ADMISSION AND LUNCH IN PASADENA

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

## Mother's Day Tour and Tea

Saturday, May 10 • 1:30 TO 4:00 PM

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

\$45/members • \$55/nonmembers

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

## Spring Twilight Tour

Saturday, May 31 • 4:30 TO 7:00 PM

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

\$50/members • \$60/nonmembers

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

## LotusFest!

Saturday, July 19 • 2:00 TO 5:00 PM

\$60/members • \$75/nonmembers

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



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Santa Barbara, CA 93108

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## Spring and Summer 2008 Member Events

MANY LOTUSLAND EVENTS are open to nonmembers, so please let your friends and neighbors know about the great activities we offer. We hope you enjoy the year 2008 at Lotusland.

### Monday, April 21

*Rocks of Lotusland*

9:30 TO 11:30 AM

See details on page 7 and use the coupon on page 15 to register.

### Saturday, April 26

*Opera Santa Barbara at Lotusland*

4:00 PM

See details on page 3.

### Sunday, April 27

*Pasadena Gardens Tour*

8:30 AM TO 6:30 PM

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

### Saturday, May 10

*Mothers 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 17

*Members' Family Day*

10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

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

### Saturday, May 31

*Spring Twilight Tour*

4:30 TO 7:00 PM

See details on page 3 and use the coupon on page 15 to register.

### Saturday, July 19

*LotusFest!*

2:00 TO 5:00 PM

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

### Sunday, July 27

*Lotusland Celebrates*

*Out of Lotusland:*

*An African Adventure*

4:00 TO 8:00 PM

See details on page 12. Invitations will be mailed in mid-June.

### Tours

Regular Tours and Family Tours are offered at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM, Wednesday through Saturday, between February 15 and November 15. Family Tours are available for groups with children under age 10 and are child and parent friendly. They 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.

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## Renew Your Membership Online

It's fast. It's easy. It's secure.  
[www.lotusland.org](http://www.lotusland.org)

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