



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS ♦ VOLUME 17 NO. 3 ♦ SUMMER 2008

Courtyard Tile Gets a Facelift

GANNA WALSKA approached collecting tile as she did almost everything. Her exquisite taste resulted in an eclectic collection that she then displayed in mass. She did this in several areas on the estate, adding to the wide variety of tile already in place. Tiles are found on the walls and base of the main house, the pavilion patio, and the George Washington Smith-designed bathhouse. They surround fountains and decorate benches, planters, and patio floors throughout Lotusland.

It appears that Madame Walska was particularly fond of Delft tiles with their characteristic cobalt blue designs painted over a white (tin) glaze. They are most often over a buff or terra cotta earthenware tile. A good part of Madame Walska's collection of hundreds of 17th- and 18th-century Delft tiles can be seen on the front courtyard fountain, constructed in the 1940s. This was not the best place to put these tiles as they are exposed to weather and water seepage and over the years, many tiles have become badly deteriorated.

Carol Valentine, a past president, Lifetime Honorary Trustee, and long-time benefactor of Lotusland, noticed this decline and thought the courtyard fountain and adjacent areas were not up to Lotusland standards. She generously offered to fund a full rehabilitation. Carol enlisted the help of Trustee Barbara Siemon, who found and worked with a team of talented tile restorers. The intention was not to make the tiles "perfect." You will find they still show their age, but they no longer look neglected. Trustee Geoff Crane arranged to have the fountain itself, with its ornate faucet (thought to be from Tibet) brought into working order.

It is believed that the trough-shaped fountain was built during the time that



PHOTOS BY RICK CARTER

Carol Valentine (CENTER) provided a generous gift to fund a much-needed facelift for the courtyard tile and fountain. She enlisted the help of Trustees Geoff Crane and Barbara Siemon to direct the project.

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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.



Karen Kolb and Patty Jacquemin find some of the tile images quite amusing.

Continued from page 1

the Gavit family occupied the house then known as Cuesta Linda. The fountain may have served as a watering trough for visiting horses. The Moorish star tiles on the front of the fountain were most likely the only decoration. (A planter in the pavilion patio contains the same tiles, and the patio was created during the Gavit era.)

Madame Walska's detailed correspondence regarding tile purchases since the 1930s are part of Lotusland's archives. She ordered from a number of dealers in old Delft tiles, but her correspondence with Adolph Loeb van Maerssen of the Holland-East Indies Curiosity Shop, Inc. in New York shows

that most or all of the tiles came through his shop and were specifically collected for use on the fountain. They appear to be made in Delft and other factories in Holland. Correspondence reveals that Madame Walska worked out a design that called for 300 to 350 tiles. The finished design includes 318 Delft tiles on and immediately adjacent to the fountain. This does not include the Moorish star tiles on the front of the fountain. There are an additional 353 Delft tiles starting at the right side of the right stairway going to the end of the retaining wall. It is believed that Madame Walska didn't particularly like these tiles as they contained designs that were too small to see well from



This charming elephant tile is pictured before its recent repair.

a distance, and they did not contain enough blue for her taste.

When you visit Lotusland, look closely at the tiles around the fountain as well as in the adjacent area. Animal tiles are across the back of the basin, and there are tiles with people on either side of the basin. Vertical rows of tiles with tree images are found on both stairways. You'll find a baker putting cookies in the oven, Biblical scenes, a Pan figure, an elderly looking cherub with a sparkler, an elephant with bear-like feet, and another cherub doing pushups

among the many delightful images.

We are very grateful to Carol Valentine for her care and generosity in funding the repair of Lotusland's charming front courtyard tile. She says, "I always wanted to see it fixed and I'm happy I could make it happen." She added that she "thinks the repaired tiles are lovely and the restoration a success."

—Deanna Hatch

This article is based on information contained in An Introduction to Lotusland Tiles written for Lotusland docents by Judith Sutcliffe.



When you visit Lotusland, look for the newly repaired tightrope walker tile.



Madame Walska collected more than 600 Delft tiles, with their characteristic cobalt blue designs, to be used on the courtyard fountain and adjacent wall.

Director's Letter

MY FIRST VISIT to Santa Barbara, many years ago, was for the sole purpose of seeing Ganna Walska Lotusland. Certainly, Santa Barbara has many wonderful offerings—the weather is pleasant, the city is charming, and the scenic views are breathtaking, yet those things pale against the exquisite beauty I found in every step through Lotusland. I was in love.

Since joining you as Lotusland's Executive Director, only a few weeks ago, I have learned that I am not the only one to have an abiding passion for Lotusland, but it seems we all have a special affinity for particular elements of this exotic place.

The rich diversity in every aspect of Lotusland is intriguing. The multiple layers of history, all woven together as each new owner modified existing features, make for a complex story. Of course, Lotusland is synonymous with

Ganna Walska, and the final mark she and her gardeners left on this land is where my captivation begins.

At its very essence, Lotusland is a series of garden rooms—each distinctive but beautifully transitioned—one tied to another to make a seamless passage through spaces designed to showcase a specific genera or group of plants or to elaborate a particular aesthetic.

For me, it is the brilliant moments in each unique garden room that hold me spellbound. There is no one way through Lotusland. Rather, there are fabulous vistas and astonishing surprises when one turns around to look back and view the garden from a different perspective. Every garden evokes a feeling or emotion that might change even as the light of day progresses through the garden. Ganna Walska Lotusland is a globally significant work of garden art, and Santa Barbara is fortunate to possess such a gem.



Gwen Stauffer

RICK CARTER

It is truly my professional privilege and my personal pleasure to lead Lotusland through the next era of growth and celebration, and I look forward to this quarterly opportunity to share with you the exciting happenings inside the pink walls.

Warm regards,

THANK YOU TO SANDRA AND BILL NICHOLSON FOR HOSTING A Special Party to Welcome Our New Executive Director

LOTUSLAND IS VERY GRATEFUL to Sandra and Bill Nicholson for hosting a wonderful cocktail party at their beautiful Montecito home “Solana” for Lotusland’s new Executive Director, Gwen Stauffer.

Built in 1901 for Frederick Peabody of Arrow Shirt fame, Solana was extensively restored and renovated by the Nicholsons. Guests thoroughly enjoyed their fabulous art collection and lovely gardens.

Gwen had only been on the job for two days when, as the guest of honor, she met more than 150 of Lotusland’s enthusiastic upper-level supporters. The event was upbeat and colorful with a 16-member mariachi band performing by the pool. There were margaritas, wine and delicious hors d’oeuvres on the east terrace overlooking the pool and rose gardens. Sandi and Bill thanked guests for attending and supporting Lotusland, and Board President Mason

Farrell introduced Gwen, who spoke to the group about how pleased she is to be at Lotusland. It was a special treat to have Lotusland past board President, founding trustee and first Lifetime Honorary trustee Carol Valentine attend the event. Other Lifetime Honorary trustees attending the event were Bob Emmons, Arthur Gaudi, Anne Jones and Michael Towbes, as well as Director Emeritus Steven Timbrook.

—Anne Dewey



Hostess and Lotusland Trustee Sandra Nicholson (LEFT) with the guest of honor, Lotusland’s new Executive Director, Gwen Stauffer.



Clifford and Crystal Wyatt (LEFT) enjoyed the event with Clifford’s parents, Carolyn and Phillip Wyatt. Crystal is a Lotusland docent.



PHOTOS BY RICK CARTER

Members of this very talented mariachi band, Mariachi Tleyottitzin, are all part of an extended family and entertained guests with their lively music.



Emmy and Fred Keller are long-time Lotusland supporters. Until his recent retirement, Fred was a Lotusland docent for many years.



Robert Maier (LEFT), visiting from Germany, was a guest of Margo and Jeff Barbakow (FAR RIGHT). With them are Eric Nagelmann (CENTER) and his guest David Alvarez. Eric designed Lotusland's stunning cactus garden.



Lisa and David Wolf were among the many upper-level Lotusland supporters who welcomed Gwen to Santa Barbara. Lisa was a hard-working member of the Lotusland Celebrates Committee for many years.



Bill and Sandi Nicholson were gracious hosts. Bill warmly welcomed their guests on the terrace—especially Gwen, who was enjoying day two of her tenure as Lotusland's Executive Director.



Gillian Launie (LEFT) was a guest of William and Kathryn Calise (CENTER). Lotusland Trustee Marianne Sprague is on the right. Kathryn serves on Lotusland's Development Committee.



Board President Mason Farrell introduced Gwen, who spoke briefly. Mason, who was chair of the search committee, said Gwen stood out as the very best candidate among a group of talented applicants.



Long-time Lotusland supporter Marilyn Tennity attended the party with her guest Bart Gray. They both were very pleased to participate in the welcome party for Gwen and wish her well in her new job.

Horticultural Happenings

THE JOYS OF MAINTAINING AN OLD MONTECITO ESTATE

LEAK REPAIRED... MYSTERY SOLVED!

IN EARLY APRIL, Lotusland employees heard the sound of cars on Cold Springs Road driving through water, as if it had rained. However...it had not rained. After speaking to maintenance staff members at the two estates directly above Lotusland on Cold Springs Road, we all began searching for the source of water exiting the county storm drain.

Water pumped from a well behind the Lotusland garages near Ayala Road to a reservoir located on an easement 100 yards north of the property line irrigates our gardens. There is no known map or blueprint of this system. We have a hand-drawn, not-to-scale map from 1958, but that's it.

We soon discovered that the water on Cold Springs Road only flowed when the Lotusland well was pumping. A water analysis conducted by Montecito Water District confirmed that the water was not theirs. It seemed like Lotusland's reservoir or the supply line to the reservoir could have something to do with the situation, but how and where could water be getting into the storm drain?

A video camera sent up the storm drain and down the reservoir supply line could not confirm where the water originated, but narrowed possibilities to a section of the line under a neighbor's sandstone wall, their cement driveway, or Cold Springs Road. Working with Mike McClellan of McClellan's Equipment, we obtained a road encroachment

permit and dug a hole on Cold Springs Road. The supply line could not be located in the road, but was finally found under the neighbor's cement driveway about 18" off the road, lying on top of the county storm drain. Aha! The hole in Lotusland's pipe was directly above a hole in the storm drain.

The leak is repaired. The water on Cold Springs Road has stopped flowing. The reservoir is full and supplying irrigation water to the gardens. We are studying options to prevent a similar occurrence in the future.

WINTER STORM DAMAGE

IN JANUARY, rain and strong winds were responsible for significant damage and tree losses in two gardens. In the fern



Mike McClellan and his crew were of great help in finding and repairing the mysterious leak.



Much of the canopy of this large coast live oak that provided shade to the understory is gone due to winter storm damage.



LEFT: The crown of the oak tree wound up in the pool, but did not damage the pool deck. INSET: The tree trunk, stump and all roots were removed from



the site before repairs were made to the smashed wall. RIGHT: Following its repair, the fern garden wall looks as if nothing happened.

garden, a very large *Quercus agrifolia*, coast live oak, which shaded palms, other plantings, and the beach area by the pool, fell across the sandstone wall. Some of its canopy wound up in the swimming pool. The storm destroyed one mature *Rhopalostylis sapida* and damaged many other plants.

The loss of shade required by plants in the area called for immediate attention. Coincidentally, at about the same time, Montecito Sanitary District offered Lotusland two mature tree ferns large enough to provide some shade to the area. Another fortunate coincidence occurred when DaRos Masonry repaired the sandstone wall. Years ago, DaRos Masonry renovated the entry to Mt. Carmel Church and donated the old sandstone pieces to Lotusland. The type of sandstone used in the wall crushed by the tree trunk is not available anymore, but the old Mt. Carmel stone matched. In fact, the same stonemason who worked on the Mt. Carmel renovation repaired the wall at Lotusland.

In the bromeliad garden, one *Q. agrifolia* blew over. Several major

branches in the canopy of another large oak broke in the wind. Once again, the loss of shade needed to be addressed immediately. Tree ferns transplanted from the fern garden will provide some shade in sunny areas, but several bromeliads have been moved to new locations out of the sun.

NEW GROUNDS STAFF

JED PACE AND PASCAL SADA joined the grounds staff earlier this year.

Before coming to Lotusland, Jed worked at Terra Sol Nursery in Santa Barbara. Coincidentally, Mike Tully, the owner of Terra Sol, was a summer intern at Lotusland when he was a student of Cal Poly SLO years ago. Jed maintains the cycad and epiphyllum gardens.

Pascal is a graduate of the Santa Barbara City College environmental horticulture program with an emphasis in ecological restoration. His work experience includes habitat restoration in the local area. Pascal maintains the Australian garden and helps in the Japanese garden.

—Michael Iven



Jed Pace



Pascal Sada

SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE

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.

Enjoy these afternoon delights:

Wine tasting from Santa Barbara County's premier vintners

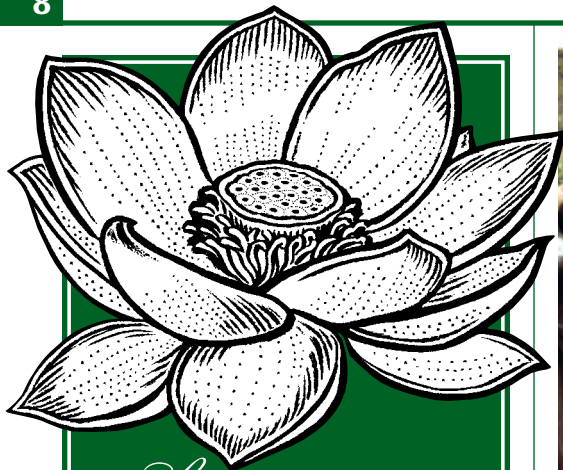
Mellow jazz • Delectable hors d'oeuvres

Lotus lore galore • Lotus viewing

Ikebana (the art of Japanese flower arranging)

Price is \$60/members and \$75/nonmembers.

To register, please call 805.969.9990 or visit our website at www.lotusland.org.



The LOTUS SOCIETY

LUNCHEON HONORS MEMBERS OF THE LOTUS SOCIETY

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL Lotus Society Recognition Luncheon was held at the beautiful home of trustee Jane Copelan on June 1. We are delighted to now have 88 members of *The Lotus Society* who have each made a gift or bequest of \$10,000 or more to Lotusland's endowment fund. Lotusland is grateful for the special support of these members who are helping to ensure the future financial well-being of the garden. For more information about *The Lotus Society* or to become a member, please call Lotusland's Director of Development, Anne Dewey, at 805.969.3767, extension 105.



Lotusland's new Executive Director, Gwen Stauffer, addressed guests at the luncheon on the patio with its breath-taking views of the mountains.



Arthur Gaudi, Laura Lee Woods (CENTER), and Cynthia Mitchel admired Jane's beautiful garden.



PHOTOS BY RICK CARTER

Our lovely and charming hostess Jane Copelan (CENTER) welcomes Michael and Nora Hurley who joined The Lotus Society in honor of Nora's parents, Donald and Marjorie McNeely.



Former Trustee Ella Brittingham, speaking to the group about why she and her husband Scott support The Lotus Society, said it is a wonderful opportunity to give back to Lotusland as the garden has given so much to the community.



Mary Lou Ardohain (RIGHT) and her guest Caz Zimmer are picture perfect sitting on the wall of the patio with the Santa Ynez mountains as a backdrop.



Trustee Larry Durham (LEFT) chats with Larry Disharoon while enjoying a glass of champagne.



New Lotus Society members Barbara and Tex Williams enjoyed the warm and lovely day. Barbara is a new docent at Lotusland, and she and Tex live in Ojai.



John Toll and his wife Lois Burwell recently joined The Lotus Society. Lois is also a Lotusland docent.



Arriving are (CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT) Lynne Scott, Peggy Wiley, Larry Disharoon, and Harlis Maggard. Peggy is a member of The Lotus Society Committee. Lynne, Larry and Harlis are Lotusland docents as well as Lotus Society members.



Debora Piot and her husband John are brand new Lotus Society members. Debora is talking to Lotusland's Director Emeritus Steven Timbrook, who attended the luncheon with his wife Jan.

Members' Family Day, May 17,

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THOMAS & NANCY CRAWFORD, JR.

The banner pictured at right thanks our generous Members' Family Day sponsors.

Thomas and Nancy Crawford, Jr. (MIDDLE) are surrounded by many of their family members who came to enjoy Members' Family Day.



Two young audience members are captivated as they watch members of the Boxtales Theatre Company perform in the theatre garden.



Floating a lion ducky down the runnel was a favorite activity on this warm day.



Complimentary ice cream cones delighted visitors.



Having your face—or head—painted by Anji Lawson was a popular activity.



Artist and staff member Gail Lucas drew a fabulous giant mural with a jungle theme for guests to paint throughout the day.

2008 🌿 *It's a Jungle Out There!*

AWFORD, JR. IN HONOR OF THEIR GRANDCHILDREN



Talented caricaturist and Lotusland staff member Mark Kyriaco was kept busy all day.



This young guest is anxious to explore all the great Members' Family Day activities.



BOB DEBRIS

Photographer Bob DeBris provided jungle-themed costumes for whimsical souvenir photos.



The Pan-A-Cea Trio entertained from noon until 2:00 PM while guests picnicked on the lawn.



Creating sculptures from Lotusland plant pods is an engrossing and rewarding activity at this annual event.



This lovely butterfly enjoyed working with crayons and stamps in the Toddlers' Tent.



The Potting Shed was busy as children painted pots to fill with Lotusland succulents to take home.



PHOTOS BY RICK CARTER

Jungle-themed prizes were awarded to those who completed a course through a "swamp" while wearing a sack.

Photography Workshops at Lotusland

THREE GREAT PHOTOGRAPHERS, three different styles, three dates! Practice your photographic skills while learning from three talented photographers, each with a distinctive style. Sign up for the complete series of workshops and receive a discounted price. —Dorothy Shaner

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2 9:00 AM TO NOON BOB DEBRIS

BOB DEBRIS WILL OFFER a digital photo workshop where he challenges attendees to take photographs “in the land of one’s own imagination using Lotusland as a stage.” Known to all Members’ Family Day guests as the “Van Gogh of Souvenir Portraiture,” the sometimes zany, but highly talented photographer will follow the photo sessions in the garden by “insty-crits” indoors where images will be viewed and critiqued. Participants are encouraged to bring props to include in their photographs.



BOB DEBRIS

Gila Bend rest stop.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 9:00 AM TO NOON BILL DEWEY

BILL DEWEY RETURNS to Lotusland to share his professional knowledge of fine art photography. Along with his amazing photographs of Lotusland, he has captured remarkable images of Big Sur, the San Andreas Fault, the Channel Islands, and the southern California coast throughout his 30-year career. Bill currently has an exhibit at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum entitled “William Dewey, Wave Photography.” He will lead workshop participants through the garden, exploring composition from close-ups to landscape views. Photos will be critiqued in the sunken drawing room at the end of the session.



BILL DEWEY

The Japanese garden.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 9:00 AM TO NOON LARRY FRIESEN

NATURE’S BIOGRAPHIES will be the subject of Larry Friesen's workshop, combining the methods of the natural historian and the photographer. As a photographer and Professor of Biological Sciences, Larry's works appear in many online classes at Santa Barbara City College and are widely used in textbooks, research articles, and his own online nature magazine, *Nature Journal*. Larry will share his images and knowledge of the art of nature at a workshop for all levels using Lotusland as a backdrop.



LARRY JON FRIESEN, SBNATURE.NET

Green Heron, Lotusland pond, March 2008.



VIRGINIA HAYES

Cinco de Mayo rose has been named an All-America Rose Selections winner for 2009.

NEW TO THE COLLECTIONS A New Name for a New Rose

WHEN THE ROSE GARDEN was replanted last winter, one rose variety had the awkward designation *Rosa* ‘WEKcobeju’. This is its official varietal name, but no one is expected to remember it. Weeks Roses, the nursery that donated all the new roses to us, produced this hybrid and has now released its trademark name, ‘Cinco de Mayo’™, the moniker under which it will be sold. It has already been chosen by the All-America Rose Selections organization as a winner for 2009.

The newly-named rose is another in the Weeks Roses Easy-to-Love™ series. These vigorous varieties (including ‘Julia Child’, ‘Livin’ Easy’™ and ‘Hot

Cocoa’™ in the Lotusland rose garden) have been bred for disease resistance. In particular, they are resistant to the fungal disease known as black spot, making them excellent choices for our pesticide-free garden.

‘Cinco de Mayo’ is a seedling of ‘Julia Child’, the bright yellow variety that grows in the nearby beds, but it bears no resemblance to its parent. Its flowers open a warm, rusty red and fade to smoky lavender. Eight pots at the top of the parterre hold healthy bushes of this outstanding rose. They are lightly fragrant, so stop by and smell them on your next garden visit.

—Virginia Hayes

Aquatic Plants A–Z

WITH VIRGINIA HAYES

MONDAY, AUGUST 18 • 9:30 TO 11:30 AM

ONE OF THE CHARMS of water gardens is the stunning array of plants that can only be found growing in and around a pond. A whole different set of interesting species make their home in watery environments at Lotusland.

Curator Virginia Hayes will present an encyclopedic overview of the many species of plants that are only happy when their feet are wet. Virginia spent nearly a decade growing and propagating aquatic plants and did graduate research

in flower development of lotuses. The indoor session will be followed by a walk outside to view our collection. Lotusland's namesake flowering plant will be in full bloom at the time of this lecture, making this a particularly great time to study them.

Bring your questions to this informative, interactive learning experience. Space is limited, so please register early by using the coupon on page 19.

—Debbie Hild



VIRGINIA HAYES

Hardy waterlily – *Nymphaea* 'Mayla'.

A World Apart: The Flora and Fauna of Madagascar and South Africa

WITH JEFF CHEMNICK AND SATIE AIRAME

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 • 9:30 TO 11:30 AM

LOTUSLAND RESEARCH ASSOCIATE Jeff Chemnick and his wife, Satie Airame, will share their incredible photos and stories from a recent visit to Madagascar and South Africa. Madagascar is often described as a "parallel world." Cut off from the African mainland for millions of years, its isolation has allowed for the evolution of exotic and spectacular plants and animals.

Home to more than 10,000 plant species (many of which are endemic), the island has a rich and diverse flora. The animals of Madagascar are equally incredible, and most occur nowhere

else on earth. Not to be outdone, the reptiles and birds are bizarre as well. Chameleons, geckos, tortoises, couas, ground-rollers, vangas...they're all part of the strange and fascinating island that is Madagascar.

South Africa is often called the plant capital of the world, and one could spend a lifetime absorbing the treasures growing on the African cape. Such groups as aloes, cycads, proteas, "ice-plants," and flowering bulbs reach their greatest diversity in southern Africa.

Space is limited, so please register early by using the coupon on page 19.

—Debbie Hild



COURTESY PHOTO

Jeff Chemnick and Satie Airame.



JANET EATON

Aristolochia gigantea, pelican flower.

Summer's Evening Twilight Tour

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16 • 4:00 TO 7:00 PM

AS THE LONG, HOT summer winds down, take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy Lotusland's gardens in the late afternoon. All guests begin their visit with a cool beverage in a commemorative Lotusland wine glass, a keepsake of your visit. Our popular Twilight Tours, offered three times a

year, allow guests to choose a docent-led tour or stroll in the garden on their own. Plan to drop by the geranium terrace overlooking the main lawn to enjoy wine and light hors d'oeuvres.

Our Twilight Tours fill quickly, so please register early by using the coupon on page 19.

—Dorothy Shaner

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

LOTUSLAND SAYS THANK YOU

LOTUSLAND IS GRATEFUL for the many hours of service that more than 200 dedicated volunteers offer to the garden each year. Serving as docents, Garden Shop associates, librarians, archivists, office helpers and garden maintenance workers, each volunteer is a valuable asset. Many are drawn to Lotusland for its physical beauty, but most choose to stay because they believe in the mission of the garden and because they have made many friends here. The continuing education program is an added bonus for those who generously donate their time to help keep things running smoothly.

Each year, on the third Monday in June, a program to honor our volunteers is held in the theatre garden. The entire Lotusland staff is present to thank



PHOTOS BY HARLIS MAGGARD

Our new Executive Director, Gwen Stauffer, welcomed the volunteers and thanked them for their dedication to Lotusland.



Dana Kent (LEFT) received a handmade Madame Walska pin for her 20 years of outstanding service as a docent and tour facilitator. Public Programs Coordinator Debbie Hild presented the awards.

volunteers for their service to the garden. The date falls close to Madame Walska's birthday, so marking her birthday is a part of the celebration. This year, volunteers were entertained by recorded music of Madame Butterfly, known to be Madame Walska's favorite opera.

Our new Executive Director, Gwen Stauffer, welcomed the volunteers and thanked them for their dedication to Lotusland. Director of Development Anne Dewey thanked the volunteers who helped with events over the last year; Director of Grounds and Facilities Michael Iven praised the garden maintenance volunteers for their tireless efforts in assisting the garden staff; Garden Shop Manager Karen Kester thanked the Garden Shop Associates for being wonderful ambassadors; and Public

Programs Manager Dorothy Shaner said how grateful she is to the docents for being responsible, flexible, patient, and enthusiastic. She also thanked the Outreach Docents for their exceptional service to the Santa Barbara community.

Public Programs Coordinator Debbie Hild reported that the cumulative hours of service by all volunteers for 2007 totaled 1800 hours, the equivalent of 9.6 full-time employees.

Handmade pins with a portrait of Madame Walska were awarded to volunteers who exhibited outstanding service to Lotusland. Among this year's recipients were Dana Kent and Virginia Puddicombe for their 20 years of service each as public tour docents.

Continuing a tradition begun in 2005, a royal award was presented to a volunteer who demonstrated a willingness to assist in a large variety of ways and who has clearly made Lotusland a priority in their lives. Last year's recipient, John Vasi, crowned Harlis Maggard as the "King of Volunteers" for 2008.

The program was followed by a buffet luncheon on the main lawn. In addition to the delicious entrees and salads, three cakes decorated with edible portraits of Madame Walska were enjoyed by staff and volunteers.

—Debbie Hild

2007–2008 Docent Class Graduates

LOTUSLAND PROUDLY WELCOMES 23 new docents to our stellar group of continuing docents. The new docents successfully completed a rigorous 14-week training program to prepare them to lead public tours of Madame Walska's garden. They are:

Debby Anderson, Susan Bjork, Maria Black, Linda Brock, Lois Burwell, Connie Campbell, Jane Craven, Chantal Evrard, Brenda Farr, Donnis Galvan, Carol Hicks, CeCe Hozman, David James, Elaine Kaufmann, Jennifer Kramer, Tatiana Larios, Maria Pallitto, Ann Sarkis, Judy Schwocho, Lucy Stephenson, Lisa Vitale, Chris Walden and Barbara Williams.



SAY DEMPSAY

Harlis Maggard (RIGHT), wearing a seed pod crown and carrying a lotus pod scepter was crowned the 2008 "King of Lotusland" for his outstanding service during the past year. John Vasi (LEFT) was the 2007 King and Lynne Scott was Queen in 2006.

Volunteer Profile: Sally Fairbanks

COURTESY PHOTO



Sally Fairbanks

SALLY FAIRBANKS SPENT her very early childhood years on her family's citrus ranch in Hemet, California before moving to Santa Barbara, where she attended Howard and then Crane School. It was a single visit to Lotusland as a young girl that helped to inspire Sally to appreciate the beauty and rewards of creating and tending a garden. Accompanying her grandmother to an invitation for tea with Madame Walska, she remembers Lotusland as an "enormous wonderland." While she doesn't recall much about her meeting with Madame, she says she was "probably more amazed at how magical and wild it felt to explore the place." The gardens were most likely still underdeveloped at that time in the late 1950s, but had everything necessary to spark the imagination of a child.

Sally's grandmother and Madame Walska were good friends. Both spoke several languages and had a passion for gardens as well as an eye for elegance. With her grandmother's encouragement, Sally ventured off to live in France after completing her degree in Anthropology at Mills College. She continued her studies at the Institute for American Universities in Aix-en-Provence and later moved to Paris. It was during these years that she honed her skills in the French language. Upon her return to Santa Barbara, Sally settled on a career

as a travel agent and remained in that field until her recent retirement.

Sally's first official tour of Lotusland came years after that first childhood visit. She remembers her docent, Margo Osherenko, as very knowledgeable and passionate about the garden. After this tour, Sally realized what a masterpiece Madame had composed. Sally, so inspired by the tour, says, "That was it! I was hooked. I could not wait to have the luxury of time to volunteer at Lotusland." The opportunity came a few years later in 2003 when she saw a notice about the upcoming docent training class. She joined the class, finding it informative, and says, "getting to know the great group of seasoned docents as well as those in training was a real bonus."

After being a docent for five years, Sally says she is "constantly amazed at the variety of people who are drawn to visit Lotusland. Some with much horticultural knowledge, others with absolutely no idea about what they are about to see." Sally says her most rewarding experience is her involvement with the Fourth Grade Outreach Program. With additional training, she learned to lead these interactive,

instructional tours for fourth graders through the very gardens that inspired her when she was about their age. She enjoys sharing the experience as she teaches them about the significance of preserving and protecting some of the earth's most precious plants and thrills at seeing them leave Lotusland as "Junior Botanists" with big smiles and their gifts of potted succulents in hand.

Sally is occasionally called upon to lead tours for French-speaking visitors and delights in leading family tours, where she says she has an opportunity to inspire, entertain, and inform people of all ages on one tour.

Sally collects plein air paintings, mostly by local artists. She loves to cook and entertain and in fact belongs to a book club that seeks out books with food themes. Sally and her husband Charles are members of *The Lotus Society*, Lotusland's planned giving program. She is a member of the Lotusland Public Programs Committee, and Charles serves on the Lotus Society Committee.

Sally's generous nature, creative skills, and sincere devotion to Madame's garden are deeply appreciated by all. Thank you Sally, for everything you do for Lotusland.

—Debbie Hild

Garden Sponsors, Benefactors and Patrons Enjoy Special Benefits

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

This year Robert and Margo Feinberg are hosting a cocktail party on October 2 at their beautiful Montecito home and garden.

Invitations will be mailed to Garden Sponsors, Benefactors and Patrons in September.

For more information about these membership levels, please contact Anne Dewey, Director of Development, at 805.969.3767, extension 105, or e-mail andewey@lotusland.org.

Where the Wild Things Are

DYPsis DECARYI

ONE OF THE MUST-SEE plants on my wife Jan's and my list when we traveled in Madagascar last year was the triangle palm, *Dypsis decaryi*. Notable for the arrangement of its eight-foot-long leaves in three ranks arising 120 degrees apart around the stem, it isn't until the palm is quite a few years old that it begins to expose the typical round trunk of a palm, which in this species can be 15 feet tall. Up until that time, the three-ranked leaf



PHOTOS BY STEVEN TIMBROOK

Triangle palms, Dypsis decaryi, are restricted to a narrow transitional zone between the eastern rain forest and the dry spiny forest of extreme southern Madagascar.

production gives the plant a triangular appearance because all you see is the crown of leaves.

Triangle palms are restricted to a narrow zone of transitional habitat between the eastern rain forest and the dry spiny forest of extreme southern Madagascar. There are perhaps only about 1,000 individuals left in the wild, although it is becoming an ever-more popular landscaping plant. Collecting wild seed is one of the pressures that threatens the species and has led to its protection under CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), although illegal export is still a problem. Population dynamics studies have led to the recommendation that less than 95% of the wild seed crop be harvested if enough is to remain for long-term survival of natural populations. Over-harvesting of leaves by local villagers for various uses such as thatching is also a major threat to triangle palms. Defoliation experiments show that for sustainable growth no more than 25% of the leaves produced each year by an individual tree should be cut.

Although triangle palm was one of our must-see plants, because we were on a group trip, we almost didn't make it. We passed through the habitat in the dead of night on a four-hour journey that covered about 100 miles of pot-holed highway between the airport at Fort



Although the trunk is round, just like all other palms, triangle palm gets its common name from the growth habit of the leaves, which are produced in three ranks, 120 degrees apart, around the stem.

Dauphin and our next stop at Berenty Reserve in the spiny forest. Our only hope was to see it on our return to Fort Dauphin late the following day. By the time we got there, the sun was setting over the hills behind the palms, and we demanded an unscheduled stop to get what little look we could. Next time we'll learn enough French to hire our own driver and dawdle along at our own pace. You can see triangle palms at your leisure at Lotusland, where they grow behind the kentia palms across from the Japanese garden at the junction of the main drive and the service road toward the cycad garden and nursery.

—Steven Timbrook

Ian Fisher Joins Lotusland's Board of Trustees

LOTUSLAND IS FORTUNATE to have an energetic new addition to our Board of Trustees.

Ian Fisher received his J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law and his LL.M in Taxation from the University of Washington School of Law. Ian is a partner at the law firm of Price, Postel & Parma LLP where he practices in the area of estate planning, taxation, and the administration of trusts and estates. In addition, he forms and counsels charitable organizations, including private foundations and public charities. His

experience will be put to excellent use on Lotusland's Lotus Society Committee.

Ian has been on the Board of Directors of the Family Service Agency of Santa Barbara for the past four years, serving as Treasurer and Secretary during this time. Previously, he assisted in the formation and served on the Board of Directors of the Diabetes Resource Center of Santa Barbara County.

Raised in Montecito, Ian returned to the area in 1999. He and his wife Michelle have two children, Sebastian (age 4) and Sydney Rose (age 1).



Ian Fisher

RICK CARTER

Lotusland Members

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2008

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*Fees are refundable only if cancellation is received one week before class or lecture.
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No phone reservations, please.*

Mail to: Ganna Walska Lotusland, Attn: Member Events, 695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Photography Workshops at Lotusland

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

\$55 each/members • \$65 each/nonmembers

☐ **WITH BOB DEBRIS** • Saturday, August 2 • 9:00 AM TO NOON

☐ **WITH BILL DEWEY** • Saturday, September 6 • 9:00 AM TO NOON

☐ **WITH LARRY FRIESEN** • Saturday, October 11 • 9:00 AM TO NOON

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP SERIES

\$135 series/members • \$150 series/nonmembers

☐ **ALL THREE WORKSHOPS**

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Summer's Evening Twilight Tour

Saturday, August 16 • 4:00 TO 7:00 PM

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

\$50/members • \$60/nonmembers

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

Aquatic Plants A-Z

With VIRGINIA HAYES

Monday, August 18 • 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 \$ _____

A World Apart: The Flora and Fauna of Madagascar and South Africa

With JEFF CHEMNICK AND SATIE AIRAME

Monday, September 22 • 9:30 TO 11:30 AM (GATES OPEN AT 9:00 AM)

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Summer and Fall 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.

Saturday, July 19

LotusFest!

2:00 TO 5:00 PM

See details on page 7.

Sunday, July 27

Lotusland Celebrates

4:00 TO 8:00 PM

Sold Out!

Saturday, August 2

*Photography Workshop
with Bob DeBris*

9:00 AM TO NOON

See details on page 12 and use the coupon on page 19 to register.

Saturday, August 16

Summer's Evening Twilight Tour

4:00 TO 7:00 PM

See details on page 13 and use the coupon on page 19 to register.

Monday, August 18

Aquatic Plants A-Z

9:30 TO 11:30 AM

See details on page 13 and use the coupon on page 19 to register.

Saturday, September 6

*Photography Workshop
with Bill Dewey*

9:00 AM TO NOON

See details on page 12 and use the coupon on page 19 to register

Monday, September 22

*A World Apart: The Flora and Fauna
of Madagascar and South Africa*

9:30 TO 11:30 AM

See details on page 13 and use the coupon on page 19 to register.

Saturday, October 11

*Photography Workshop
with Larry Friesen*

9:00 AM TO NOON

See details on page 12 and use the coupon on page 19 to register.

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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www.lotusland.org
