



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS □ VOLUME 17 NO. 1 □ WINTER 2008

Look! Up in the Sky...

BY JEFF CHEMNICK

*M*ANY VISITORS to Lotusland are sure to bring along a camera, but equally indispensable is a pair of binoculars. Helpful not only for viewing botanical splendors, binoculars also will maximize enjoyment of the abundant bird life that Lotusland has to offer.

Just as the seasons bring about dramatic floral changes, so do they deliver a constantly changing avifauna. Just as knowing the annual plant cycles is vital to bearing witness to Lotusland's most impressive floral displays, timing is equally important when bird watching in the garden. Many species are part-time residents, or migrants merely passing through, heading north or south as per the time of year, either to breed or seek refuge from brutal winter conditions. The period between September and April is best for transients, while others are present year-round and likely to be seen at any time.

In addition to binoculars, all one needs to properly enjoy the birds of Lotusland is a good field guide. Careful study will not only aid in identification, but also the chronology of when Santa Barbara's various bird species might be expected. It helps to stroll in the company of more knowledgeable birders, but even solitary visits will be greatly enhanced by heeding the birds in the garden.

Certain gardens at Lotusland are better bird magnets than others. Exotic plantings don't necessarily attract a plethora of birds, unless they have something to offer in exchange for a feathery display. Flowers are often dependable bird attractants. Most aloes are winter bloomers and attract hummingbirds. This is an interesting juxtaposition of

Continued on page 2



PHOTOS BY LARRY JON FRIESEN, SATURDAYS.NET

The Great Egret (PICTURED)—actually a heron, Ardea alba—and the Great Blue Heron are closely related as different species in the same genus and often are found in the same habitat.

IN THIS ISSUE

Look! Up in the Sky...	1	A Special Party for Upper-Level Supporters	8
Winter Birds at Lotusland	3	Santa Barbara's Powerful Women	10
Horticultural Happenings	4	Sustainable Gardening Workshop	10
Silks and Satins, Gold and Silver: The Splendid Theater Costumes of Madame Ganna Walska	5	Volunteer Profile Jim Foster and Sandy Russell	11
The Lotus Society	6	Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop	11
New to the Collections Rare Ferns	7	Where the Wild Things Are <i>Madagascar Ocotillo</i>	12
Aloe Outing	7	Renew Your Membership Online	16
Garden Tour	7		

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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.



Often seen plunge-diving for small fish and crayfish in the large ponds at Lotusland, the Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) is most easily found by following its strident rattling call.

Continued from page 1

plants and animals that would otherwise never meet in nature. The genus *Aloe* is restricted in distribution to the African continent and Arabia while hummingbirds are endemic to the New World. However, at Lotusland, the mostly red, tuberous *Aloe* flowers are irresistible hummingbird delights. The most common species of "hummer" is Anna's, but others are seen as well. Occasionally, the tiny nests are found and provide weeks of fascination for those lucky enough to spot them while young are being raised.



Found near freshwater habitats, the Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) is frequently seen flying from a lookout and catching insects mid-air.

The orchards and nearby hedges are favored by sparrows, towhees and thrushes. The fern garden and the bromeliad gardens are great places for all manner of secretive birds such as warblers, wrens, wrentits, juncos and thrushes. Patience and stealth are needed to get good looks as many species prefer to skulk in the darker reaches of the vegetation rather than issue forth for easier scrutiny. A stroll down the main drive from the Visitor Center to the main house is usually quite productive, because it allows a wide range of views and a smorgasbord offering of jays, woodpeckers, mockingbirds, sparrows, towhees, finches and warblers. Strolling slowly while peering into the darker reaches of the bushes and trees along the periphery of the main lawn will yield a number of birds, as will carefully scanning high and low. Careful scrutiny delivers results. Insectivorous groups such as wood warblers and vireos are particularly difficult to distinguish because they glean their meals while constantly moving and flying about, providing beginning birders with a considerable source of frustration. The oaks at Lotusland are particularly good places to spot warblers as well as kinglets, vireos, titmice, flycatchers, nuthatches and woodpeckers.

Several of Lotusland's most renowned gardens are not necessarily great spots for birding. The cycad garden as well as the new cactus garden



Since it is the tallest heron, the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) is able to feed in deeper water, reducing competition from the smaller herons and egrets.

can be almost void of avian activity, perhaps because they offer little in the way of food or suitable refuge for many species. The topiary garden and parterre are not particularly good spots either, but when the Cow-Itch Trees (*Lagunaria pattersonii*) are in bloom, orioles and others abound.

Orioles and tanagers are among the showiest birds to visit Santa Barbara. Large monocots are often favored nest sites for orioles, and flowering eucalypts are great sources for orioles and tanagers, as well as a wide range of nectar feeding and insectivorous bird species. But caution! Long periods spent studying the tops of tall trees can cause "birder's neck." Relief can be as simple as a visit to the Japanese garden to see who's visiting the pond. Certain species are frequently seen near water. The lotus pond should also be checked several times

during any birding visit to Lotusland. Frequently encountered are herons, ducks, egrets and Belted Kingfishers.

Black Phoebe are found just about everywhere throughout Lotusland. A member of the New World Flycatchers, a Black Phoebe is easy to spot as it sallies out to grab a quick meal and return to its perch. Not so easy are other flycatchers, which can be hard to spot and difficult to differentiate.

That is why learning bird vocalizations is helpful in order to observe and identify different species. Commercial recordings are available for study. It is critical to become familiar with the various calls and songs to become a more proficient birder and enhance the experience. Many species are only reliably distinguished by call, especially under poor viewing conditions. But don't be tricked by the calls and coos of the various caged birds at Lotusland. Exotic doves in the butterfly garden and Cockatiels in the aloe garden have fooled more than a few visiting birders.

Mimicking a bird's whistle can sometimes summon it into view as the bird investigates the friend, foe or mating potential of the apparent intruder into its territory. Perhaps the best trick to call in birds is "pishing" (rapidly blowing air out through an embouchure of clenched cheeks and tightened lips). Pishing appears to arouse the curiosity of a wide variety of birds. One might feel a bit silly at first, but once the wrens, vireos and warblers begin to show up, all regard for ridiculous appearances vanishes.

Be sure to glance overhead from time



A common resident of mature deciduous woodlands, the White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) is often seen scurrying up and down trunks and along large branches.

to time to spot soaring birds, especially birds of prey such as Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks. Often seen in flight are Banded Pigeons, American Crows, Mourning Doves, House and Purple Finches, American Robins, Bushtits and Cedar Waxwings. Much less frequently encountered and certainly more challenging to identify are the swifts and swallows that occasionally pass over the garden, but never stop.

One thing for sure...the plants in the garden change much less frequently than the birds. So go early, go often and go quietly because you never know what you might see, especially at Lotusland. And don't forget your binoculars!

Jeff Chemnick is a Lotusland Research Associate, cycad specialist and accomplished birder. Please see boxed article below for information about the February 16 Winter Birds at Lotusland event.

Winter Birds at Lotusland

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

9:00 TO 11:00 AM (GATES OPEN AT 8:30 AM)

LOTUSLAND RESEARCH ASSOCIATE Jeff Chemnick and Director Emeritus Steven Timbrook look forward to leading their annual bird walk on Saturday, February 16. The morning tour focuses on amassing a bird list with as many species as possible. Former highlights include Wood Duck, Varied Thrush

and Golden-crowned Kinglet. One year, a roosting Barn Owl in a Chilean wine palm was the featured bird of the day. You don't need to be an experienced birder to participate, and we will have several pairs of binoculars to loan if you don't have your own. Please use the coupon on page 15 to register.



LARRY JON FRIESEN, SATURDAYS.NET

Horticultural Happenings

A YEAR IN THE LIFE of the garden includes ongoing maintenance, renovation of existing areas, and replacing and adding new plants. In 2007, the *Lotusland Newsletter for Members* reported on a variety of accomplishments including the installation of the Hodel *chamaedorea* palm collection, with its 275 specimens, and the start of the Japanese pond renovation project. We also wrote about the renovation of the rose beds in the parterre area prior to planting new specimens in the two beds. As a follow-up, we are happy to report that using good plant health care guidelines, including weekly applications of compost tea, assured a virtually pest- and disease-free year in the rose garden, with abundant blooms and attractive green leaves.

Other changes occurred throughout the year.

The blue garden is an historic Lotusland feature where, over the years, trees have grown and shaded the sun-loving understory plantings. The blue garden renovation included trimming and thinning trees to allow more light into the garden, soil aeration and composting, and planting more than 400 one-gallon sized *Festuca ovina glauca*.

William Cahill of Custom Roof Thatch, Ltd. in Cincinnati, Ohio, installed new thatch roofing on the Shinto shrine in the Japanese garden.

Lotusland volunteers Lynne Scott, Wanda Livernois and Lori Meschler worked with staff gardener David Burby to prepare planting sites and plant more than 100 new insectary plants in the butterfly garden.

The effects of low rainfall totals were noticeable throughout the year. Several old and already stressed *Pinus*

radiata (Monterey pines) were removed after being girdled by beetles.

The lack of rain became evident in plantings that do not usually require supplemental watering. In less than six months, the water table dropped over 27 feet. Additional water conservation measures are being thoroughly discussed by Lotusland's ground and maintenance staff.

More than 30 *Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *Lyonii* (Catalina Cherry) were planted outside the chain link fence along Cold Springs Road. The trees are good insectary plants and will eventually screen the staff parking lot and other open areas along the road.

Lotusland staff renovated a 60-foot section of the main drive cactus planting bed. Plants and landscape rocks were removed in order to improve soil and cultural conditions. Digital photographs



The new specimens in Lotusland's rose beds are thriving. Weekly applications of compost tea resulted in a pest- and disease-free year.



Lotusland's historic blue garden is flourishing with the addition of 400 new blue fescue plants.



Valencia Landscapes and Rock Bottom Ponds worked with Lotusland staff in the planning and completion of the Japanese pond renovation project.



Lotusland docents Wanda Livernois, Lori Meschler and Lynne Scott (pictured) helped to plant more than 100 new insectary plants in the butterfly garden.



BEFORE:
After 15 years,
the thatch roof
on the Shinto
shrine in the
Japanese garden
was badly
deteriorated.



AFTER: William Cahill of Custom Roof Thatch, Ltd. in Cincinnati, Ohio, installed new thatch roofing.

were used to return the landscape to its pre-renovation design.

Lotusland offered a Sustainable Gardening Workshop that included excellent guest speakers from Rincon

Vitova Insectaries in Ventura and Sound Horticulture in Bellingham, Washington and a presentation by Corey Welles, Lotusland's Plant Health Care Coordinator. Other staff members discussed

specific aspects of Lotusland's program at six demonstration areas set up in the garden. (A Sustainable Gardening Workshop is planned for March 15, 2008; see page 10). Karen Christman of Arbor Services and Esau Ramirez, Lotusland's grounds superintendent, conducted a Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop in Lotusland's orchard. Karen and Esau explained pruning principles, and attendees were able to practice pruning techniques on selected trees. (A Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop is scheduled for January 26, 2008; see page 11).

We are happy to report that generous grants from the Harold Simmons Foundation and from the Ed Snider Foundation funded the purchase of much needed electric flatbed utility carts. The carts convert into two-seaters that may be used as transportation vehicles for visitors or staff as needed.

—Michael Iven

SILKS AND SATINS, GOLD AND SILVER The Splendid Theater Costumes of Madame Ganna Walska

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE
By KAYE D. SPILKER
CURATOR, COSTUME AND TEXTILES,
LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART
SATURDAY, MARCH 8
LECTURE 3:00 PM
RECEPTION 4:00 PM
(GATES OPEN 2:00 PM)

JOIN KAYE SPILKER for an illustrated lecture on the fabulous theater costumes that belonged to Madame Ganna Walska and are now in LACMA's collection. A reception follows.

Kaye Spilker holds degrees in fine arts from Syracuse University and in art history from UCLA. She joined LACMA in 1987 and has been a participating curator in several exhibitions, including *Erté/Opera & Ballets Russes/Dance: Theater Costume in LACMA's Collection* (2004). This splendid exhibit featured many costumes worn by Madame Walska.

Ms. Spilker recently co-curated *Breaking the Mode: LACMA's Contemporary Fashion Collection*, which focused on the museum's holdings of avant-garde dress. This popular exhibition traveled to Florence last fall and opens on March 16 at the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

This event will fill up quickly, so please register early using the coupon on page 15.

—Anne Dewey



Fancy dress costume for Ganna Walska as Pauline Borghese, 1926. Designed by Alex Rzewuski and made by House of Lanvin, Paris.

COURTESY OF LACMA



The LOTUS SOCIETY

NANCY SCHLOSSER

NANCY SCHLOSSER is a very busy lady! An avid gardener, golfer, bridge player and traveler, she has served on the board of Direct Relief International for eight years, two as board chairman, and is a member of the Santa Barbara Garden Club.

Nancy and her late husband, Bill, met after he graduated from Williams College in Massachusetts and was serving in the army. He fortuitously visited his sister, who was a student at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, and she arranged a blind date with her friend Nancy. It was definitely love at first sight and they were soon married. They settled in Bill's hometown of Defiance, Ohio, where Bill's family operated a hand tool manufacturing

business. They had three children, Elizabeth, Mary and Chuck, and moved to Colorado Springs in 1965 so that Bill could begin his own business.

After many cold winters, Nancy and Bill decided to look for a warmer climate both for a winter home and for their permanent retirement home. It was important to both of them that it was not a "retirement community," that it was near the ocean and that it was a place where "they could get involved." They visited friends in the Birnam Wood area of Montecito and fell in love with Santa Barbara. They soon bought their first winter home in Montecito, but after a dinner party for 20, they realized they needed a bigger house! They bought their next home in 1984 right around the corner from Lotusland. Their home was designed by architect Jim Morris and has lovely gardens and ocean views. Nancy and Bill became full-time residents of Santa Barbara in 1993, the same year that Lotusland opened to the public, and, in fact, the Schlossers had been very supportive of Lotusland's request to the county to become a public garden. Nancy still lives in this home, and her eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild, who all live in Denver, love to visit!

After retiring here permanently, Bill became active in the community too. He was the chairman of the Santa Barbara Club and was instrumental in its renovation. He was also on the board of the Valley Club.

Nancy attributes her love for gardens to her father who was also an avid gardener. Nancy said her mother was in charge of the vegetable garden and fruit trees and her father was in charge of the flowers. When Nancy first visited Lotusland, she said she felt like Alice in Wonderland finding surprise after surprise. Nancy has very high praise for Lotusland's wonderful docents whose enthusiasm she describes as infectious. Madame Walska's unusual Japanese garden, the horticultural clock, the lemon arbor and the new cactus garden are among her favorite places, and she would love to see the water steps built by the Gavits restored. Nancy says she couldn't live without art, and she considers Lotusland to be Madame Walska's work of art. "Walking around Lotusland makes

you pause and breathe deeply and appreciate being alive."

Nancy and Bill became members of *The Lotus Society* in 2003 with a planned gift to our endowment. Lotusland greatly appreciates Nancy's support of a garden that inspires her, and we in turn are inspired by Nancy and her devotion to the community.

—Anne Dewey



NEW MEMBERS

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

Leslie and Philip Bernstein

Patricia P. Broome in Honor of
Arthur R. Gaudi

Julie Koons Bush

Thomas and Nancy Crawford, Jr.

Ron and Desiree Kaye

Fred and Emmy Keller in Honor of
Charles Glass and Robert Foster

Adele and Loi Nguyen

Lynne Frances Scott

Tex and Barbara Williams

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.



Nancy Schlosser



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

NEW TO THE COLLECTIONS

Rare Ferns

WHEN MADAME WALSKA contacted designer Bill Paylen to create her fern garden, the diversity of ferns available from commercial sources was limited. To a certain extent, that continues to be true, although we are fortunate that many new ferns have been introduced to Lotusland's collection from amateur and professional collectors. One such collector, Barbara Joe Hoshizaki, recently opened her garden to our staff and has donated more than 80 new species of ferns.

Many of the new fern acquisitions from Hoshizaki's garden are not often found in cultivation, and several are somewhat rare. The less well-known ones include the following. *Histiopteris incisa* is known as the bat fern because its leaf segments are rounded like unfurled bat wings. Although it is widespread in its native habitats in the tropics and southern subtropics, it is not usually seen in gardens. It is quite large, as tall as 5 feet, and can be used to screen unsightly areas. *Coniogramme gracile* is a very hardy fern native to the area around Tokyo, Japan, where it even survives snow. It is easy to grow and makes big clumps in a short time, so could become a good candidate for introduction into the horticultural trade. Two species that Hoshizaki collected in their native habitats are *Diplazium*



VIRGINIA HAYES

Many ferns have leaves that are divided into leaflets, and those leaflets are further dissected—the classic "fern" look. Others, like this *Coniogramme gracile*, have fronds with only one rank of long slender leaflets.

hachijoensis from Japan and *D. maximum*, also from the Pacific region. Both are fairly easy to grow and should thrive at Lotusland. One last rarity is *Dryopteris munchii*. It hails from Mexico, and its pathway to the United States probably began with spores collected by an English grower, then traded back to this continent and grown on a limited basis in the northwest.

Dr. Hoshizaki taught botany for

many years at UCLA and travels all over the world studying and collecting ferns. She co-authored the book *Fern Grower's Manual* with Dr. Robbin Moran of the New York Botanical Garden and has lectured to Lotusland docents on ferns and how to identify them. Her donation will not only enhance the garden here, but serve as an additional repository for her important collection.

—Virginia Hayes

SPACE IS
STILL AVAILABLE
Aloe Outing
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19
1:00 TO 4:00 PM

TO REGISTER, PLEASE call
805.969.9990,
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Monday through Friday
and
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
on Saturdays.

(See details in the Fall 2007 issue of the *Lotusland Newsletter for Members*.)

Garden Tour
With VIRGINIA HAYES
SATURDAY, APRIL 5
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, April 5. 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 \$100 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.

THANK YOU TO JOEY PEARSON FOR HOSTING A Special Party for Upper Level Supporters

*L*OTUSLAND IS GRATEFUL for the support of our wonderful donors and we like to thank them in a very special way.

Each year we invite our supporters to a fall reception to say thank you to our members who are at the Garden Patron (\$2,500) or above levels of membership and to our *Lotus Society* members who have made planned or outright gifts of \$10,000 or more to Lotusland's endowment. Our generous

event sponsors for *Lotusland Celebrates* who give at a high level are also invited, as well as individual donors who have made significant gifts.

We were very fortunate to have *Lotus Society* member Joey Pearson open her beautiful Montecito home and garden for this year's event. Guests enjoyed Joey's rare Pre-Columbian pieces, as well as her remarkable collection of modern art. The lawn is home to an extraordinary group of

garden sculptures and overlooks the Birnam Wood golf course.

A lovely highlight of the event was Carolina Montgomery looking fabulous wearing the Mish Lotus Brooch her husband Parker purchased for her at this summer's *Lotusland Celebrates!*

The wine and hors d'oeuvres were delicious, and Joey's home provided the perfect setting to thank our supporters for their generosity to Lotusland.

—Anne Dewey



The gracious and lovely event hostess Joey Pearson (LEFT) with her twin sister Jany Pearson and brother-in-law Dick Pearson, who live just down the street.



President Kisa Heyer warmly thanked Joey Pearson and Lotusland donors for their generosity.



Trustee Linda Gluck had a great time meeting and thanking Lotusland upper level supporters.



Satie Airame and her husband Jeff Chemnick are long-time supporters of Lotusland's programs and are members of The Lotus Society.



Paul Glenn (left) and Ozzie Da Ros talked about their many connections to Lotusland and its collections.



Robert and Margo Feinberg enjoyed the event so much that they generously offered their home for next year's annual event!



Judy and Edward Shea marvel at the beautiful sculpture that accents the reflecting pool.



Kathryn and Bill Calise enjoyed the delectable wines, delicious hors d'oeuvres and beautiful mountain views at Joey Pearson's home.



Lotusland Trustee Jill Levinson and her husband Neil admired the exquisite setting, including the Birnam Wood golf course visible behind them.



Director Emeritus Steve Timbrook with longtime Lotusland supporters Chris Emmons and her husband, Lifetime Honorary Trustee Bob Emmons.

Santa Barbara's Powerful Women

MONDAY, MARCH 17

9:30 TO 11:30 AM



COURTESY PHOTO

Neal Graffy

When the subject of influential and powerful women of Santa Barbara comes up, nearly everyone in town thinks of Pearl Chase and at Lotusland, of course, we add in Madame Ganna Walska. But a lot happened BP, DP and AP (before, during and after Pearl.).

On March 17, local historian Neal Graffy will introduce us to "the others" when he presents *Santa Barbara's Powerful Women*.

Mr. Graffy will first introduce us to some women who stood their ground and said their piece back in a time when male machismo ran rampant and women were supposed to be seen and never heard. What happens when strong, outspoken women band together? The

result was a woman's organization that grew to be the most dominant and influential social and political organization this town has ever seen.

Neal Graffy's love for Santa Barbara history began at age 13 when he started gardening and doing odd jobs for Mrs. Leontine Phelan, a descendant of the founder of the Santa Barbara Presidio, who lived in an adobe house built from the Presidio ruins.

In 1989 he gave his first slide show on Santa Barbara history and has since given well over 250 presentations on 19 different topics.

Neal has written for the *Santa Barbara News-Press*, the *Santa Barbara*

Independent, *Santa Barbara Magazine*, the Santa Barbara Historical Society, the Trust for Historic Preservation and the Genealogical Society.

His expertise has been sought by the media with countless appearances on local, state and national radio and TV. He has been featured in several documentaries including the Emmy Award-winning *Impressions in Time*. Neal has appeared statewide on Huell Howser's *California Gold*, KCET TV's *Life and Times* and nationally on *This Old House*.

Space is limited, so please register early by using the coupon on page 15.

—Debbie Hild



COURTESY PHOTO

Santa Barbara's powerful women plotting at the Woman's Club in the early 1930s.

Sustainable Gardening Workshop

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

1:00 TO 5:00 PM (GATES OPEN AT 12:30 PM)

KNOWLEDGEABLE LOTUSLAND staff and other horticultural professionals will demonstrate and discuss sustainable horticultural techniques that can be used in your own home garden. This includes information on organic matter management and insect ecology, along with an overview

of the sustainable practices used daily at Lotusland. Hands-on demonstrations of mulching and nutrient cycling, insect monitoring, beneficial insect releases, incorporating an insectary into your home garden, compost tea brewing and application, and best management practices for turf will be featured.

The gates open at 12:30 PM and the workshop begins promptly at 1:00 PM in the sunken drawing room of the main house. Please register for this event by using the coupon on page 15.

For more information, contact Dorothy Shaner at 805.969.3767, extension 107.

Volunteer Profile: Jim Foster and Sandy Russell



COURTESY PHOTO

Jim Foster and Sandy Russell

JIM FOSTER AND Sandy Russell are currently the only married couple sharing the experience of being docents at Lotusland. They moved from Avondale, in southeastern Pennsylvania, to Santa Barbara five years ago, when Sandy accepted a job transfer. Their realtor was Lotusland docent JoAnn Mermis, who gave them a Lotusland gift membership on their first Christmas here. Both Jim and Sandy delighted at the thought of spending more time in the gardens they had heard so much about for so many years.

Jim has a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of Arizona. Until retirement, he spent his career as a Shell Oil Development research scientist and at DuPont doing biological research focused on crop protection. Sandy has a Master's degree in botany from the University of Wisconsin and worked in plant biotechnology from the first time a plant gene was transferred into another plant—a bean gene into a sunflower. She later earned an MBA and currently does marketing and communications for DuPont Displays, a leader in the development of organic light emitting diode (OLED) displays.

While the thought of becoming a docent was appealing, Sandy thought she was much too busy at the time and suggested that Jim, who was retired, might like to give it a try. Jim enrolled in the training and brought Sandy on what

would be her first official tour of the garden. Soon after, Sandy found time to join a training class and she too became a docent. She says she particularly enjoyed learning about Madame Ganna Walska and is inspired by her life. Finding out that Madame Walska was 54 when she purchased the property made Sandy realize how much one can accomplish in the second half of one's life.

Sandy and Jim are enthusiastic gardeners and currently grow vegetables and ornamental plants. They are Cactus and Succulent Society members (Sandy is Membership Chair; Jim is Treasurer) and Sandy is a Life Member of National

Garden Clubs, Inc. Fascinated by the blue-green slag glass lining many of Madame Walska's gardens, Jim was inspired to create a line of jewelry made from similar glass. The beautiful necklace and earring sets that he and Sandy make are for sale in the Garden Shop.

Both Jim and Sandy say the opportunities for continued learning, experiencing the beauty of the plants, and the little surprises they see each time they visit are among their greatest joys at Lotusland. Their association with Lotusland has helped to encourage friendships with so many people who share their interests.

Giving tours offers many rewards. Jim says that often, about two-thirds of the way through, he feels a connection with the group. "I can sense their delight and wonder being in the garden and know I helped get them there." Sandy is particularly fond of the new cactus garden. "I still get choked up when I tell visitors the story of how Merritt Dunlap donated his life-long cactus collection to Lotusland. I am touched by the fact that before he passed away he was able to see his 'kids' planted in such a special place and taken care of for the rest of their lives."

Our visitors are fortunate to have the opportunity to experience Lotusland under the guidance of Jim and Sandy, and we appreciate everything that they do for Lotusland. —Debbie Hild

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26
9:30 TO 11:30 AM

LOTUSLAND STAFF MEMBERS and Karen Christman of Arbor Services will offer personalized instruction in the techniques used to prune different types of fruit trees.

This hands-on workshop is the perfect opportunity to learn all about fruit tree pruning from the experts.

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



Workshop participants and staff members pruning Lotusland's fruit trees.

MICHAEL IVEN

Where the Wild Things Are

MADAGASCAR OCOTILLO

THE LARGE ISLAND of Madagascar, lying 250 miles off the east coast of Africa, has been separated from Africa for 165 million years and from India for some 70 million years. With that long isolation, the island has evolved an extremely high concentration of endemic flora and fauna, species found nowhere else in the world.

The highest levels of endemism are found in the hot, dry spiny forest habitat in the extreme south and southwest of the island. A prominent feature of the spiny forest is the cactus-like plants of the family *Didieriaceae*, long thought to be restricted to Madagascar but recently expanded to include some African genera previously assigned to the portulaca family.

Alluaudia procera, in the *Didieriaceae*, is characterized by long thin branches, protected by stout spines, which only bear leaves during brief periods following rain. It is often called Madagascar ocotillo because through convergent evolution in extremely hot, dry climates, it superficially resembles the ocotillo, *Fouquieria splendens*, of the southwest United States and northern Mexico. The latter is in an unrelated family, the *Fouquieriaceae*.

Like all natural habitats in Madagascar, the spiny forest is endangered by the activities of man and

his growing population. Much of the spiny forest habitat has been converted to agriculture, especially the growing of sisal, a Mexican species of agave, for fiber production. As in other parts of the island, frequent, often annual, burning to promote grass for cattle also threatens the spiny forest, as does cutting the larger trees to make lumber and charcoal for local use and for sale to other parts of the country.

A number of Madagascar endemic plants can be found growing at Lotusland. Look for some very nice eight- to ten-foot-tall Madagascar ocotillos in the succulent garden. —Steven Timbrook



The spiny forest abounds in endemic trees and shrubs superbly adapted to the intense heat and drought of the region. The columnar stems emerging from the canopy are species of *Alluaudia* and *Didieria*, which can reach 60 feet in height.



Alluaudia trunks provide lumber for the houses in local villages, are burned for charcoal that is used for cooking and heating, and are sold for use in other parts of the country. These uses are one of the major threats to the spiny forest habitat, as is burning to provide grazing for cattle.



Older specimens of *Alluaudia procera* are typically single trunked with a cluster of upright branches at the top.



Leaves appear quickly following rains and fall off as the soil dries, leaving formidable spines to protect the stem from browsers.



The white-footed sportive lemur feeds on leaves of *Alluaudia procera* and other spiny forest species by night and spends the day sleeping in a trunk cavity.

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SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2007

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Card number _____ Signature _____

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*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

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop

With KAREN CHRISTMAN from ARBOR SERVICES and LOTUSLAND STAFF

Saturday, January 26 • 9:30 TO 11:30 AM

\$35/members • \$45/nonmembers

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

Winter Birds at Lotusland

With RESEARCH ASSOCIATE JEFF CHEMNICK and DIRECTOR EMERITUS STEVEN TIMBROOK

Saturday, February 16 • 9:00 TO 11:00 AM (GATES OPEN AT 8:30 AM)

\$35/members • \$45/nonmembers

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

Silks and Satins, Gold and Silver: The Splendid Theater Costumes of Madame Ganna Walska

With KAYE D. SPILKER, Curator, Costume and Textiles, Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Saturday, March 8 • Lecture 3:00 PM • Reception 4:00 PM (GATES OPEN AT 2:00 PM)

\$45/members • \$55/nonmembers

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

Sustainable Gardening Workshop

Saturday, March 15 • 1:00 TO 5:00 PM (GATES OPEN AT 12:30 PM)

\$35/members • \$45/nonmembers

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

Santa Barbara's Powerful Women

With SANTA BARBARA HISTORIAN NEAL GRAFFY

Monday, March 17 • 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 \$ _____

Garden Tour

With VIRGINIA HAYES, CURATOR OF THE LIVING COLLECTION

Saturday, April 5 • 9:15 AM TO 4:00 PM (GATES OPEN AT 9:00 AM)

\$100/members • \$110/nonmembers

INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION, ADMISSION AND BUFFET LUNCH

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Winter and Spring 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, January 19

Aloe Outing

1:00 TO 4:00 PM

Call 805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, January 26

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop

9:30 TO 11:30 AM

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

Friday, February 15

Garden reopens after winter recess.

Saturday, February 16

Winter Birds at Lotusland

9:00 TO 11:00 AM

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

Saturday, March 8

Silks and Satins, Gold and Silver: The Splendid Theater Costumes of Madame Ganna Walska

LECTURE 3:00 PM

RECEPTION 4:00 PM

(GATES OPEN AT 2:00 PM)

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

Saturday, March 15

Sustainable Gardening Workshop

1:00 TO 5:00 PM

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

Monday, March 17

Santa Barbara's Powerful Women

9:30 TO 11:30 AM

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

Saturday, April 5

Garden Tour with Virginia Hayes

9:15 AM TO 4:00 PM

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

Renew Your Membership Online

It's fast. It's easy. It's secure.
www.lotusland.org