



# LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS ♦ VOLUME 18 NO. 3 ♦ SUMMER 2009

## Fascinating Ferns

BY VIRGINIA HAYES

THE VICTORIAN ERA was characterized in many ways, especially by scientific exploration and innovation. One of those was the craze to collect exotic plants. Ferns were among the sought-after types, and they were gathered from the far corners of the globe.

Most ferns require warmth and constant moisture to thrive, so a number of these early collections were housed in conservatories and greenhouses. Some of the collections have survived in the older botanical gardens such as the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in Britain and the New York Botanical Garden, New York. Other displays of ferns outdoors are included at a few botanical gardens such as the Birmingham Botanic Garden in Alabama that displays hardy ferns from around the world and Fernwood in Minnesota specializing in temperate ferns from northern zones. Most of these fern gardens feature the plants in a woodland setting, much as they would be found in their native habitats.

Given the benign climate of Santa Barbara, it is possible to grow many species of ferns, including many of the more tropical ones. In addition, Lotusland's fern garden deviates from the subdued woodland design concept by focusing the limelight on the ferns themselves. A forest of tree ferns (*Sphaeropteris cooperi* and *Dicksonia antarctica*) shades large swaths of chain fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*), hummock fern (*Blechnum orientale*) and holly fern (*Cyrtomium falcatum*). Many other specimens are planted throughout, but the overwhelming impression is of ferns, ferns and more ferns.

Ferns have been planted at Lotusland for as long as any other type of plant. R. Kinton Stevens started the tradition

*Continued on page 2*



PHOTOS BY VIRGINIA HAYES

The chain fern, *Woodwardia radicans*, has large, arching fronds up to five feet in length. It is sometimes also called the rooting chain fern because it forms small plantlets at the tips of the fronds where they touch the ground. These plantlets can then root into the ground and grow into another complete plant.

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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.

### *Continued from page 1*

by making an expedition to Hawai'i in 1891 to obtain specimens of the amau tree fern (*Sadleria cyatheoides*). (He was privileged to also view Kilauea erupting and to meet Queen Liliuokalani, but those are stories for another day.) Although he was commissioned to procure them for Golden Gate Park, a few of those plants remained in Santa Barbara when the main shipment went north to San Francisco. While none of those original ferns survive here today, many other species are thriving in the garden.

The practice of planting ferns continued after R. Kinton Stevens' death, most likely by his son Ralph. When Madame Walska bought the property that she would eventually dub Lotusland, some of the Australian tree ferns (*Sphaeropteris cooperi*) already grew in the shade of the oaks north of the house. To enhance that area, Madame Walska engaged Bill Paylen to create a fern garden in the late 1960s. The selection of ferns commercially available at that time was slim, but Paylen managed to find a wider array among his plant collector friends. He added a particularly robust form of the Australian tree fern that had been located in a garden in Brentwood, the Tasmanian tree fern (*Dicksonia antarctica*), chain ferns (*Woodwardia fimbriata* and *W. radicans*), the still rather rare Mexican tree fern (*Cibotium schiedeii*), an interesting hybrid known as

*Aglaonaria robertsii* 'Santa Rosa' and the more common bird's nest fern (*Asplenium nidus*), several species of sword ferns (*Nephrolepis*) and maidenhair ferns (*Adiantum*) among others. By the time that the Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation assumed stewardship of the garden and commissioned Paylen to expand the garden, a few more were available, but many of the new ferns, even then, came from Paylen's personal collection.

The world of commercial fern production has continued to grow, but the diversity of ferns available to growers is still a fraction of the known species. Fern societies and botanical gardens remain in the forefront of growing and introducing new ferns to their members. The willingness of these hobbyists and professionals to trade not only plants, but also their nearly microscopic spores, attests to their dedication. As you might imagine, growing ferns from spores is not the easiest method. In many cases, either because the plants are so rare or so slow growing, this is the only way to increase the supply. Lotusland's collection in recent times has benefited from the efforts of these fern enthusiasts. Spores have been received from the Los Angeles International Fern Society and as far away as the Botanic Garden in Nancy, France. Plants have come to us from fern researchers such as Barbara Jo Hoshizaki and the Hardy Fern Foundation. The



The bird's nest fern, *Asplenium nidus*, grows epiphytically in its native habitat in Australia, but can also be planted in the ground.



This diminutive form of *Microlepia strigosa* (forma *macfadenniae*) has very compact leaf divisions.





New fronds of the hammock fern, *Blechnum occidentale*, are pretty in pink, later shading to light green. This fern grows from creeping rhizomes, creating a ground cover.



Spores from the holly fern, *Cyrtomium falcatum*, have germinated on the surface of the tufa stone, producing new plants. The boulder is flanked by the vegetable fern, *Diplazium esculentum*.

University of California, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles State and County Arboretum have contributed plants, as well. In all, the collection now comprises about 150 taxa.

The descriptive word “ferny” would characterize many ferns. One conjures an image of a frond with many small subdivisions, giving it a lacy look. That

is true for many ferns, of course, but there are other leaf forms as well. The tongue fern (*Pyrrosia lingua*) and the bird’s nest fern (*Asplenium nidus*) have entire leaves, with no subdivisions. Some ferns are only divided once, like the golden polypody (*Phlebodium pseudoaureum*), while others are divided three or even four times as in the Japanese lace fern

(*Polystichum polyphlebarum*). There are creeping ferns that grow as ground covers (*Arthropteris tenella*), epiphytic ferns that cling to trees (staghorn fern, *Platycerium bifurcatum*), even lithophytic ferns that can grow in rocks (holly fern, *Cyrtomium falcatum*). All these forms are displayed at Lotusland, many of them massed in Madame Walska’s signature style.

## Director’s Letter

OVER THE PAST several months, many of you have called or sent emails asking me, “How is Lotusland?” Times are tough for everyone, and Lotusland is no exception. Our investment portfolio was affected by the 2008 economic downturn, but we took quick action before the year was out to trim our annual budget, including eliminating and reducing staff positions and cutting funds for operational needs. Our aim is to be “lean and mean,” yet maintain the same level of exceptional care to these amazing gardens and continue all of our current programs.

In fact, the Lotusland staff excels at doing more with less. At the mid-point of our fiscal year, our expenses are less than what has been allowed in a very tight budget, yet members and visitors praise the gardens as having never looked better, even as a shrunken crew cares for more gardens than ever before. In addition, our beloved Fourth Grade Outreach Program not only thrives, but continues to receive accolades from the community.

The beauty of Lotusland inspires

wonder, joy and a sense of well-being. The garden’s potent magic that attracts us all to Lotusland is the same magic that easily deceives everyone into believing that all is well for Lotusland. While we have as many visitors this year as we have had in the past, the revenue we earn through tours, programs and shop sales, and the support we receive from foundations and donors, has declined.

We are so grateful to all of you, our members, because your membership support helps us ensure the perpetual guardianship of this captivating place. Now, during these difficult times, we need our members more than ever, and I ask you to affirm the value of Lotusland to you and your community by renewing or increasing your membership.

All of my life has been spent building and nurturing gardens, and I am keenly aware that gardens come and go by the hands of those who tend them. Never before have I been so intensely reminded that the live beauty of a garden can be destroyed by a single act. Lotusland has been spared from not one, but two



Gwen Stauffer

RICK CARTER

threatening fires. While we mourn the losses suffered by the communities and institutions around us, and even while we get back to our routines and focus on day-to-day activities, we never assume that Lotusland is immune. Lotusland is a precious treasure, and I urge you to visit, enjoy and support the garden’s many ephemeral moments that are easily missed and not to be taken for granted.

Warmest regards,  
Gwen L. Stauffer

SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE

# LotusFest!

SATURDAY, JULY 11 • 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*

Price is \$65/members and \$75/nonmembers.  
To register, please call 805.969.9990.

## Join Madame Ganna Walska... BY LEAVING A PERSONAL LEGACY TO LOTUSLAND

MADAME WALSKA was a visionary who left her fortune to Lotusland to ensure that the magnificent garden she created will be open to the public in perpetuity. Now more than ever, it is imperative that we build our Endowment Fund to guarantee the preservation of this unique botanical treasure. Outright gifts, pledges or bequests in any amount are welcome. Gifts of \$10,000 or more to Lotusland's Endowment Fund qualify for membership in *The Lotus Society*.

The names of Lotus Society members are engraved on the *Wall of Honor*. New members Stephen and Toni Haselton are pictured in front of the panel where their names were recently added. They made their donation in honor of Stephen's father, Scott Haselton, who was an avid succulent collector and a friend of Madame Walska.

There are many ways to give to Lotusland. Please visit our website at [www.lotusland.org](http://www.lotusland.org) and click on "Giving to Lotusland" or call our Director of Development, Anne Dewey, at 805.969.3767, extension 105.



RICK CARTER



## HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

## New Pumps and New (Old) Cycads

I AM PLEASED TO TELL you about some new acquisitions at Lotusland, some to see—and others behind the scenes.

## NEW WELL AND PRESSURE PUMPS

WHEN THE WELL is dry, we know the worth of water. —Benjamin Franklin, *Poor Richard's Almanac*, 1746

Since the 1920s, the gardens at Lotusland have been irrigated with water pumped from a well near the Ashley Road gate to a 0.5-acre-foot reservoir located 250 feet north of Lotusland's northern property line. Gravity flow returns the water to the garden. Pressure pumps and a plastic pipe main line that isolated garden irrigation water from Montecito Water District household water were added in the 1980s. We are fortunate to have a well that has consistently provided enough water to maintain the grounds.

It was time to replace our well pump and pressure pumps, and we did so with new, more energy efficient models. At Lotusland's request, Southern California Edison performed an energy efficiency test on the old pumps prior to installation of the new ones. Not surprisingly, the old pumps' efficiency rated pretty low. With the new models, SCE estimates annual savings of over \$2,000 in energy

costs with a potential cash incentive of \$1,300 based on estimated kWh savings.

The project was made possible by Carol Valentine's vision and commitment to dedicate funds to infrastructure projects. She also funded a project now in the planning stages to improve drainage on the west side of the property. These are not the most glamorous projects that I would ask you to view the next time you're at Lotusland, but they are extremely important to the garden's operations. Carol Valentine truly realized the worth of water.

## DONATION OF CYCADS TO LOTUSLAND

RECENTLY, LOTUSLAND Research Associate Jeff Chemnick learned about the availability of cycads growing in the yard of a Camarillo home. The home was about to be put on the market, and the owner did not want cycads in the landscape. A previous owner was an avid plant collector, and Jeff had supplied cycads to him in the 1970s and early 1980s.

Lotusland's curator, Virginia Hayes, cycad gardener Jed Pace and Jeff inspected the plants to assess the viability of moving them and introducing some to Lotusland's cycad garden. The owner agreed to donate the plants and within a couple of days, Jeff and a Lotusland crew went to Camarillo to transport them.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL IVEN

The crew from SAR Construction removed 300 feet of PVC drop pipe and the old well pump. The new pump was set at 240 feet.

Everyone was awed by the size of three *Cycas rumphii* with trunks measuring 4, 5.5 and 7 feet. Those moving the plants were particularly awed by their weight, especially that of the 7-footer.

Planting sites were selected and the three *C. rumphii* were transplanted into the Cycas section of the cycad garden adjacent to the koi pond. Eight days after hearing about the possibility of acquiring some plants, there is an impressive new display for everyone to see. Be sure to check it out the next time you visit Lotusland. —Michael Iven



JED PACE

Jeff Chemnick views the three *Cycas rumphii* after they were transported from Camarillo to Lotusland. Prior to planting, the plants were root pruned and a site was selected and prepared.



The Lotusland crew planted the *C. rumphii* two days after their arrival at Lotusland.





## The LOTUS SOCIETY

### LUNCHEON HONORS MEMBERS OF THE LOTUS SOCIETY

**T**HE EIGHTH ANNUAL Lotus Society Recognition Luncheon was held on June 14 at the lovely home and garden of Margo and Jeffrey Barbakow. We are delighted to now have 93 members of *The Lotus Society* who have each made a gift, pledge or bequest of \$10,000 or more to Lotusland's Endowment Fund. Lotusland is very 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.



*Our gracious and generous hosts, Margo and Jeffrey Barbakow (RIGHT), greeted Board President Mason Farrell and Executive Director Gwen Stauffer.*



*Wilson Quarré, Peggy Wiley, Gwen Stauffer, Laura Lee Woods and Casey Zimmerman enjoyed the delicious luncheon served on the Barbakow's delightful patio. Peggy is a Lotus Society Committee member.*



*Margo Barbakow chatted with Robert and Sherry Gilson, who admired the stunning gardens. Sherry is co-chair of the Lotus Society Committee.*



*New Lotus Society member Connie Buxton, Lotus Society co-chair Jane Copelan and Patty Jacquemin enjoyed a perfect day at the sunflower-themed luncheon.*



# Charles Glass...In His Own Words

PART II OF A SERIES OF EXCERPTS FROM HIS UNPUBLISHED MEMOIRS WITH THE WORKING TITLE OF  
EXPERIENCES OF 12 YEARS AS DIRECTOR OF LOTUSLAND: THE FABULOUS ESTATE OF MME GANNA WALSKA

**M**ME. WALSKA LOVED acquiring new plants, but to be sure she only got the best, she fell into the habit of going to plant shows and buying the first place winners. She first met Bob [Foster] at the annual Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Show, after she saw his prize-winning *Dioscorea macrostachya*, a strange caudiciform succulent from Mexico with a caudex like a tortoise shell from which an annual vine-like stem bearing leaves and flowers is produced. She insisted upon buying this plant, a favorite of Bob's, which was definitely not for sale. As usual she finally got her way and we delivered the plant. Another time we came up to deliver several large clusters of *Mammillaria geminispina*, a lovely species of pincushion cactus with white spines and white wool, which she purchased from us admittedly to attempt to copy the marvelous effect of the main cactus drive at the Huntington Botanical Garden in San Marino. "Monkey sees, monkey does!" she told us. She wanted us to direct the gardeners and virtually landscape the new area she had set aside for the new cactus along the main drive.

In passing I should mention a humorous anecdote that also sheds a bit of light on her character. Bob was wearing a small necklace of amber beads he had purchased in Germany while we were there for a cactus congress. Mme. Walska looked at the necklace, then looked up at him, and enquired somewhat sardonically, "Are you trying to impress me?" She then told us to wait there a minute as she went scurrying off into the main house. Several minutes later she emerged from the house, slightly bent over, with an old sweater tightly wrapped around her upper body. She came up to Bob and with a flair, almost like a flasher, spread her sweater open wide to reveal an amber necklace larger and heavier than we had ever seen or imagined. It was so heavy it made her stoop slightly and largest globes of amber were the size of grapefruits. It was typical Mme. Walska jewelry.

After we finished landscaping the small area with the new *Mammillaria* clusters, she took us on the inevitable tour of the gardens. During the tour we oohed and aahed in the appropriate places, and the gardens were very impressive, but she turned on us and challenged, "What are you? Hypocrites? You tell me how wonderful 'Lotusland' is, how beautiful it is...and I try to give it to you and you won't take it!" That night, driving back to L.A., we talked it over again, both of us wondering whether, even knowing what we knew about the challenges and difficulties involved, we should not give it a chance. We knew it was not really a question of "giving us the garden," but she had told me in one of her many, long phone conversations that she would be leaving a sizable endowment, if she could find someone she trusted to take over as director, but she had to work with that person, and he had to win or earn that trust, we knew. She had tried to give it to the city of Santa Barbara and she had tried to give it to the University of California at Santa Barbara, but in both cases she was told that their lawyers would meet with her lawyers to draw up the papers and that was definitely not the approach to take, not the way she worked or thought. We considered that if we took her up on her offer and somehow survived and saw the transition to a well-endowed botanical garden that it would be a wonderful thing, indeed, for the plant world. On the other hand, we considered that if we continued to turn her down and if she died without finding anyone she trusted and could work with, that the estate would undoubtedly be broken up and the great opportunity and a unique garden totally lost, and we would always wonder if we could have saved it had we but tried. We decided that it would be better to try and lose than not to try at all...

We started coming up to Santa Barbara for a few days each week, working with Mme. Walska and 'Lotusland' and then spending the rest of the time in Reseda, taking care of the

nursery and our book business as well as the editing of the Journal [*Cactus and Succulent Journal*]. This spread us pretty thin and we realized that we would soon have to take the plunge, sell our nursery and homes and move to Santa Barbara along with Abbey Garden Press....

She signed a contract with us stating our purpose in coming to work at Lotusland and guaranteeing us job security for at least two years. It also affirmed that our collection of some 10,000 cacti and other succulents would be housed and cared for at Lotusland. We sold our business to our dearest friends John and Mary Bleck, who decided that they would join us and move to Santa Barbara. We sold our nursery property in Reseda and Bob sold his family home. We were looking for property in Santa Barbara and at this point Mme. Walska's accountant, Reginald Faletti, called us into his office. He stated, and I could tell from his turn of a phrase that he was quoting Mme. Walska verbatim, that Mme. Walska could not work under the constraints of a contract such as the one that she had signed, and that if we wished to work with her at Lotusland we would have to tear up said contract and work together under mutual trust or not at all. At this point there was little turning back. We had already sold our properties and our nursery business. We decided we had no alternative but to accept her terms and we started looking for a very, very large property where we could store our collection of 10,000 cacti and succulents until such a time as they could be moved to Lotusland. I bought two acres high up on Las Canoas Road, hopefully above the "late night and early morning fog" where our plants would have a fair chance of surviving until we could win the trust of and come to terms with Mme. Walska.

## NEXT TIME

MORE STORIES FROM the Glass memoir in the next issue of the *Newsletter for Members*.

*Excerpts edited by Virginia Hayes*



# Members' Family Day, May 16, 2009 The

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THOMAS & NANCY CRAWFORD

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

Nancy Crawford enjoyed being surrounded by many members of her family at Members' Family Day.



Floating a rubber ducky down the runnel is a favorite activity of the young set.



Executive Director Gwen Stauffer (RIGHT) greeted guests at the Visitor Center for the 12th annual Members' Family Day.



Photographer Bob DeBris provided fabulous costumes to transform guests for their souvenir photos.



It's clear that Trustee Brett Posten and his wife Joanna thought the complimentary ice cream cones were delicious.



Guests of all ages enjoyed the music of Peter Feldman and the Very Lonesome Boys.



# Birds and the Bees and the Flowers and the Trees!

AWFORD, JR. IN HONOR OF THEIR GRANDCHILDREN



The craft table provided hours of entertainment, even for tigers.



What could be more fascinating than getting up close and personal with an owl from Eyes in the Sky?



Having your face painted by Anji Lawson is a favorite Members' Family Day activity.



Artist Gail Lucas drew a giant mural for guests to paint throughout the day.



This trio shows off the flowerpots, filled with Lotusland succulents, that they decorated at the Potting Shed.



Wildlife on Wheels enthralled the audience at their shows in the theatre garden.



This young guest looks at his Pollination Partner Guide in preparation for searching for pollinators and winning a prize.



## NEW TO THE COLLECTIONS

# Succulent Donations

AS LUSH AS LOTUSLAND seems to be when one strolls the paths, it may be surprising to some visitors to know that a large proportion of the collections are succulent plants adapted to desert environments. Of course, because of those adaptations, many have bizarre shapes and features, surely one of the reasons Madame Walska began collecting them. We are pleased to have recently added some new species and fine specimen succulents that once belonged to other avid collectors.

Herman Schwartz, an oncologist practicing medicine in Berkeley, spent much of his life collecting succulent euphorbias and other species. He erected several large greenhouses near Bolinas, California and planted many of them

directly into the ground within them. After his death, his heirs began looking for a suitable home for many of the plants, and Lotusland was among the institutions they contacted. After Lotusland staff assessed the collection and investigated the logistics of moving the plants, funding was sought to rent a truck and for costs related to three staff members spending three days digging, loading and transporting selected specimen plants. It was through the generous financial support of two donors, Anitra Sheen and Paul Glenn, that the plants were successfully moved to their new home at Lotusland.

Some of the plants included in this acquisition are two species of *Alluaudia*, spiny succulents native to Madagascar, 13 species of *Aloe*, eight species of *Euphorbia*, several other assorted species of succulent plants, as well as four large specimens of *Beaucarnea stricta*, the ponytail palm. These plants will find their new homes in various parts of the garden after they have recovered from their transplant. It is always a treat to be able to plant not only new species of plants, such as *Aloe karasbergensis* and *A. classenii* and *Euphorbia hamata*, but showy specimens such as the ponytail palms. Such additions are the kind that Madame Walska always sought for her garden.

Serendipitously, at the same time an offer of a dozen or more potted specimens of *Euphorbia ammak* 'Variegata' was received from the Garbarino family in San Rafael. The close proximity of



The variegated form of *Euphorbia ammak* creates a stark contrast among the other euphorbias, which are generally a dark green in color.

these two sites allowed the Lotusland crew to visit both and acquire the plants. Two groupings of these striking plants, sometimes called the ghost euphorbia because of their pallor, are now installed among the other euphorbias along the main drive. Their mature size (many are six feet or so in height) and the substantial show that such a large number of them add to the garden is quite stunning.

Lotusland extends heartfelt thanks to the donors of the plants as well as those who financed the collecting trip up north.

—Virginia Hayes



Lotusland staff unload a large specimen of *Aloe powysiorum*. Native to Kenya, it was one of the many plants received from the Schwartz collection.

PHOTOS BY VIRGINIA HAYES

## Summer Twilight Tour

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15  
4:00 TO 7:00 PM

TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY to enjoy the longer days of summer "after hours" during our Summer Twilight Tour. Begin your walk with a stop at the Tori gate, for a cool beverage in your commemorative Lotusland wine glass. You and your guests can choose to reserve a docent-led tour, or explore the gardens on your own.

Wine, beverages and light hors d'oeuvres will be served after 5:00 PM on the geranium terrace. Please use the coupon on page 15 to reserve space for this event.

## Lotusland Needs a Fireproof Data Safe!

After two close calls from the Tea and Jesusita fires, we are reassessing our data storage.

We are in great need of a fireproof data safe with a 2- to 3-hour fire rating.

If you have one to spare, or if you would like to donate \$6,000 for us to purchase one, please contact Anne Dewey at 805.969.3767, extension 105.



## Become a Lotusland Docent

DOCENT TRAINING FALL 2009  
RECEPTION FOR PROSPECTIVE DOCENTS  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20 • 2:00 PM

*M*ADAME GANNA WALSKA'S extraordinarily creative vision of garden design was transformed into reality by many talented landscape designers and horticulturists. This transformation has been an ongoing process, each garden yielding fascinating stories about its beginnings and metamorphosis into its present-day form.

Visitors to Lotusland are treated to botanical and historical information about the estate interpreted by docents who have undergone extensive training to prepare them for giving public tours.

Every other fall, a 14-week docent training course provides all the necessary information for conducting a tour of the garden. Instructors are drawn from the Lotusland staff, the Santa Barbara com-

munity and other California academic and horticultural institutions. These informative and enjoyable Monday-morning sessions last from 9:30 AM to noon. This fall's docent training begins on Monday, September 14.

A reception for prospective docents will be held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, August 20. This biennial event offers prospective docents an opportunity to learn more about docent training and to meet some of the very knowledgeable docents who currently lead tours of the garden. Please tell your friends and neighbors about the program. To reserve a space at the reception, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Jean Parry, at [jparry@lotusland.org](mailto:jparry@lotusland.org) or 805.969.3767, extension 112.

## How Does Our Garden Grow?

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12  
1:30 TO 4:00 PM

*D*ON'T MISS THIS opportunity to explore Lotusland on your own and meet the gardeners who are responsible for keeping each garden in world-class condition. Our knowledgeable staff will be ready to answer questions about the care and maintenance of Lotusland's gardens as well as your own garden.

Light refreshments will be served on the geranium terrace throughout the afternoon. Please use the coupon on page 15 to register.

## Container Garden Workshop

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10  
9:30 AM TO NOON



*C*REATE A BEAUTIFUL planter at our Container Garden Workshop. Lotusland will provide all of the materials needed along with step-by-step instructions during this morning class.

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



## Volunteer Profile: Arlene Belmontes

### THE GARDEN HAS NEVER STOPPED BLOOMING FOR ME



VIRGINIA HAYES

Arlene Belmontes

**I**RREPRESSIBLY ENTHUSIASTIC Arlene Belmontes grew up in Pennsylvania and New York. When she was 11 years old, Arlene moved with her family to Ventura and since then has always lived near the beach.

Arlene spent 34 years as a flight attendant for American Airlines and except for enduring one year in Chicago that included a bitter cold winter, she was based in Manhattan Beach. At that time the airlines offered free passes to its employees—with a mandatory \$10 surcharge—and that was Arlene's passport to the world. Since her work routinely took her to major American cities as well as to Paris and London, she decided that during her leisure time she would explore more remote or exotic locales. "The travel bug is still in me. I try to go out of the country at least once a year and usually to an unusual destination." Her travels have taken her everywhere from Transylvania (her recommendation: "Wait 10 years to go there.") to "spotless Quito."

After retiring, she and her partner of 18 years Robert McPherson moved to a Ventura beach home that they share with their rescue dog Sandy along with their very spoiled cat Lucy. They also serve as foster parents to cocker spaniels.

In 2005 a friend presented them with passes for a Lotusland tour. It took two visits for Arlene to be hooked and

for her to decide to honor her mother by becoming involved with Lotusland. "My mother had created a Pennsylvania garden that was a 'show stopper.' Shortly after my mother's passing, I decided the best way for me to keep her memory alive was to take more interest in one of her favorite pastimes. Luckily for me, it was the year Lotusland was interviewing for new docents. The training program was more than a learning and classroom experience. It was a new horizon that I had never experienced. I was a true city gal. This was a big green world."

A naturally gregarious person, Arlene can easily put people at ease. Her smile and vivacity are in demand for our special events and VIP tours. "I want visitors to experience the feeling of this garden. It's the result of one woman's devotion and dedication. It's intimate."

Arlene is also a part of Lotusland's Fourth Grade Outreach Program "I found I'm a real ham and love watching the fourth graders learn from my newly acquired knowledge. Being a classroom presenter at their schools is one of the most rewarding parts of the Outreach Program for me. They and I never knew

plants could be so fascinating. It's all in the telling!"

Arlene believes it's important to get a feel for those who are on her Lotusland tours. Whenever she can, she tries to find something in her tour that resonates with each group. The Japanese garden is her year-round choice of a favorite garden. "The serenity there is overwhelming to me. I know everyone can feel it after a few minutes. I even ask the fourth graders to stop, listen and feel for a short time at the end of my tours. However, during spring and summertime, the water garden brings out the poetic side of my tour. The garden must be seen during our summer Twilight Tours and LotusFest."

Arlene and Robert became Lotusland members for "purely selfish reasons. We love to show her off and hear the oohs and aahs." According to Arlene, Robert is more of a cheerleader for Lotusland than anyone she knows outside of Lotusland.

We are grateful to Arlene for her talents as a docent, her enthusiasm and her commitment to Lotusland.

—Jean Parry

## Increase Your Membership to Patron Level or Above and Enjoy a Very Special Benefit

IN ADDITION TO RECEIVING unlimited free admission to Lotusland, our Garden Sponsor, Benefactor and Patron membership levels receive an invitation to the annual **President's Party**.

This year Gary and Susanne Tobey are hosting the **President's Party** on September 24 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](mailto:andewey@lotusland.org).



# Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

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### 2008 ANNUAL APPEAL

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MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2009

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## Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐ Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

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Member name \_\_\_\_\_

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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

### Summer Twilight Tour

Saturday, August 15 • 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### How Does Our Garden Grow?

Saturday, September 12 • 1:30 TO 4:00 PM

\$35/members • \$45/nonmembers

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

### Container Garden Workshop

Saturday, October 10 • 9:30 AM TO NOON

\$50/members • \$60/nonmembers

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

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MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2009

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# Ganna Walska LOTUSLAND®

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## Summer and Fall 2009 Member Events

MANY LOTUSLAND EVENTS are open to nonmembers,  
so please let your friends and neighbors know about the great activities we offer.

### **Saturday, July 11**

#### *LotusFest!*

2:00 TO 5:00 PM

See details on page 4.

Call 805.969.9990 to register.

### **Sunday, July 26**

#### *Lotusland Celebrates*

#### *Our Secret Gardens*

4:00 TO 8:00 PM

Invitations were mailed in June.

For tickets or information, call

805.969.3767, extension 120.

### **Saturday, August 15**

#### *Summer Twilight Tour*

4:00 TO 7:00 PM

See details on page 10 and use the

coupon on page 15 to register.

### **Thursday, August 20**

#### *Prospective Docent Reception*

2:00 PM

See details on page 11.

### **Saturday, September 12**

#### *How Does Our Garden Grow?*

1:30 TO 4:00 PM

See details on page 11 and use the

coupon on page 15 to register.

### **Thursday, September 24**

#### *President's Party*

4:30 PM

See details on page 12.

### **Saturday, October 10**

#### *Container Garden Workshop*

9:30 AM TO NOON

See details on page 11 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, \$20 or use admission passes; ages five to 18, \$10; four and under, free. Call 805.969.9990 for reservations.

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## New Member Benefit for Levels I, II and III

After you use your admission passes, you and your guests may visit Lotusland at the reduced rate of \$20 per person.

Call 805.969.9990  
to make a reservation.

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