



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS ♦ VOLUME 19 NO. 4 ♦ FALL 2010

Giant Ants Invade Lotusland

BY DEANNA HATCH

GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND has been invaded by a colony of ants...an exquisite nine-member colony of large-scale cast bronze sculptures by American artist Susan P. Cochran, that is. The stunning queen ant, 24' long x 7' high x 19'17" wide and 8,500 pounds, sits regally watching the other eight ants at work and play.

Cochran's ants have remarkably beautiful proportions and superb painted finishes. By exaggerating the sleek form of the ants, the artist shares her perspective from behind the magnifying glass.

Before coming to Lotusland, the ants traveled from Florida to Dubai to Las Vegas, where they were on display at the Bellagio Conservatory for six months. They will live in Lotusland's visitor center and adjacent Australian garden until May 15, 2011. The ants are available for purchase, and 20% of the proceeds will benefit Lotusland.

Susan P. Cochran was born in 1940 on Long Island, New York and has been involved in the world of art since childhood, when her early love of knitting quickly led to experimenting with fibers of all kinds. She attended school in Florida, New York, Virginia, Switzerland and France. Three years of art classes in a Virginia boarding school were the most rewarding, and extensive travel opened her eyes to different methods of creating. She achieved success with watercolors and went on to work with beads, using dimensional beadwork in many of her creations. When her eyes decided that beads were too small to work with, she moved on to bronze sculpture, her medium of choice since 2001.

Cochran's love of nature and affinity
Continued on page 2



PHOTOS BY KAREN TWIBELL

The stately queen, all 8,500 pounds of her, sits regally watching the other eight ants at work and play.

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The LOTUSLAND
NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS
is published by
Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation
695 Ashley Road
Santa Barbara, California 93108
805.969.3767 • www.lotusland.org

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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.



It took two days, some heavy equipment and several strong men to move the giant ant colony to Lotusland's Australian garden and visitor center.

Continued from page 1

for bronze sculpture led to these amazing works that allow the ant, a creature most often overlooked, to be rediscovered. Her inspiration for this collection came not only from her fascination with flora and fauna, but also from the social nature of ants. "Ants have been living in colonies for more than a million years, supported by their instincts to cooperate and abilities to solve complex problems," says Cochran. She has sculpted the statuary bronze ants with amazing scale and attention to detail. Her large-scale sculpture installations have received

international attention, and her work is represented in numerous public and private collections.

This is the first-ever sculpture exhibit at Lotusland, and we are thrilled to have it—it is already proving to be very popular with visitors. We are open to having art at Lotusland as long as it complements the garden and does not compete or overwhelm it. Art exhibits must also complement our mission—ants are an important component of the biological communities on nearly every continent of the world. We plan to conduct public programs about ants and to add signage that will explain the impact



Two "communicating" ants chat in the Australian garden. Lotusland staff member Judy Flynn looks on.

RICK CARTER



This gigantic ant is emerging from his nest on the edge of Lotusland's visitor parking lot.

RICK CARTER



Worker ants make sure that eggs are in a safe place and protected from the heat and from the cold.

of ants on the world's ecology and on cultivated gardens.

The ants are part of every docent-guided tour, and their proximity to the

visitor center allows guests to spend extra time at the beginning and end of their tour. Of course, as a member, you may come to Lotusland on a self-guided

tour and spend as much time as you like enjoying these fascinating creatures.

What's a garden without ants? Come visit soon.

Director's Letter

AUTUMN IS ONE of my favorite seasons, especially when I am in Madame Ganna Walska's magnificent gardens. As the sun rises closer to the horizon, the seasonal light shifts from summer's glare to a soft radiance layered with long shadows, and Lotusland takes on a dreamy, peaceful ambience.

Even as I cherish the serene calm of the garden's autumn personality, I am as eager to resume the flurry of behind-the-scenes activity that is a constant at Lotusland. Autumn is the time we give special assessment to the success of our financial activities in the current operating year as we prepare our annual operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year, starting January 1, 2011. I am very pleased to report that we undoubtedly expect to meet our yearly goals for earned revenue in 2010—that is, revenue we generate through reservations and tours, memberships and public programs. At the same time, we have carefully and wisely used all of the support that our members, donors and friends have given us so that we fully expect our operating expenses at the

end of 2010 to be well below what we budgeted for the year.

Despite this fiscal prudence, we still need your help. Our Conditional Use Permit sorely limits our capacity for generating earned income by limiting the allowable number of annual visitors, and our modest endowment provides nominal support. The grants from foundations, on which we depend to fund our public programs, are diminishing as foundation boards shift their focus and their grants away from cultural organizations.

Lotusland suffers from an urban legend that Madame Ganna Walska left a huge fortune that was more than adequate to care for the gardens. In fact, the endowment fund left by Madame Walska was modest and, like the funds of other non-profit organizations, lost value during the economic downturn two years ago.

Lotusland is a world-renowned cultural treasure, with a reputation for incomparable garden design, globally important botanical collections, exceptional architectural history and avant garde horticultural practices. It is a place



Gwen Stauffer

RICK CARTER

of beauty, tranquility and respite for all. As we do our annual self-assessment, we are proud that we are doing everything right and hopeful that you will help us with our recession recovery. This autumn, I ask that you watch for and respond generously to our request for Gifts for the Garden, and I invite you to visit the extraordinary gardens of Lotusland, in this most lustrous of seasons, before we are required to close our gates in mid-November until mid-February.

Warmest regards,
Gwen L. Stauffer

LotusFest!

THE LOTUSES WERE IN FULL BLOOM in both the Japanese garden and the water garden for our annual celebration of Lotusland's legendary namesake. Guests enjoyed premium wines from some of Santa Barbara County's finest vintners, complemented by delicious hors d'oeuvres, and a chance to win an overnight stay with dinner at the Santa Barbara Four Seasons Biltmore. The Vajra Jazz Trio delighted guests with their mellow sounds throughout the afternoon. Valerie Halverson of Ikenobo Ikebana provided a demonstration and display of *Ikebana*, the art of Japanese flower arranging.

Thank you to the Four Seasons Biltmore, Ikenobo Ikebana and to the very generous vintners who participated: Alma Rosa Winery and Vineyards, Buttonwood Farm Winery, Carina Cellars, Dierberg Vineyards, Jaffurs Wine Cellars, Kenneth Volk Vineyard, Santa Barbara Winery, Star Lane Winery, Summerland Winery, Vinfuzion, Whitcraft Winery and Zaca Mesa Winery.

—Dorothy Shaner



Laurie Wolf, Blythe Montanaro and Christine Maguire enjoyed walking in the garden at LotusFest.



Executive Director Gwen Stauffer chatted with docents Jim Foster and Sandy Russell.



Bruce McGuire and Kate Dole represented Santa Barbara Winery.



Nicole Hager and Drake Whitcraft from Whitcraft Winery poured a variety of wines.



Matt Brady and Katie Larwood from Jaffurs Wine Cellars poured for appreciative guests.



Steve Brown, Pamela Pietri and Greg Boege poured for Vinfuzion.



Jim and Ginger Halbig represented Buttonwood Farm Winery.



The Vajra Jazz Trio played throughout the afternoon.



Michael Brughelli from Kenneth Volk Vineyards poured at the festive event.



Valerie Halverson (LEFT) demonstrated the art of Japanese flower arranging for a guest.

NEW TO THE COLLECTIONS

Monkey's Hand Tree

TWO MONKEY'S HAND TREES (*Chiranthodendron pentadactylon*) that had grown for years at Lotusland were lost in different storms over the past few years. When docent Lori Meschler offered to pay for a replacement, we were very pleased to accept. While it may not be "new" to the collection, this new young specimen has been planted at the edge of the old arboretum section where it can be viewed from the cypress allée.

Native to southern Mexico and Guatemala, this cloud forest tree belongs in the mallow family, the Malvaceae, and has lobed leaves that are covered with brown fuzz. The cup-shaped blossoms have intricate reproductive parts with the five stamens splaying out to resemble a hand. Another common name is

devil's hand, and the deep red color and bizarre shape of the flowers make this name apt as well.

The flowers can best be appreciated when they fall to the ground beneath the tree. If pollinated, they are followed by a five-lobed woody seed pod that splits to release the seed. Growing to a height of 50 feet with a spread of 30 feet, it is not for every garden, so we are happy to have the space to share this striking tree with our visitors.

Well-known relatives of this species are the California flannel bush (*Fremontodendron californicum*), with which it has even been hybridized artificially, and cocoa (*Theobroma cacao*). Other relatives include Australian bottle trees in the genus *Brachychiton*, *Dombeya* (sometimes called tropical hydrangea



STAN SHEBS

The common name monkey's or devil's hand is clearly apt for these flowers.

for its resemblance to that unrelated shrub) and *Adansonia*, the baobabs of Africa and Australia. —Virginia Hayes

Lotusland Welcomes New Trustees

LOTUSLAND IS PLEASED to welcome Susanne Tobey and Peggy Wiley to its Board of Trustees.



COURTESY PHOTO

SUSANNE TOBEY

SUSANNE TOBEY was raised in Missouri and moved to California in 1976, where she worked in Human Resources and Organizational Development for a number of department store corporations. Her last position was Vice President, Human Resources for Robinson-May. She and her husband Gary moved from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara in 2005 after spending several years as part-time residents. They have two daughters who continue to live in Los Angeles.

While in Los Angeles, Susanne was active in the Los Angeles County Art Museum through the Service Council and Costumes and Textiles Committee. She also developed a training program for urban renewal for Tree People. After moving to Santa Barbara, she continued her philanthropy work through the CAMA Women's Board and as a member of the Board of Trustees for CALM. She is an enthusiastic golfer, an avid gardener and a member of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara. Susanne currently serves on Lotusland's Development and Horticulture Committees and says, "I feel honored to be a part of the preservation and growth for the future of Lotusland."

PEGGY WILEY

PEGGY WILEY visited Lotusland for the first time in summer 2005 and promptly became a member and a frequent visitor. One year later, she joined *The Lotus Society* with her husband, Wilson Quarré. Peggy joined the Lotus Society Committee, bringing her enthusiasm and commitment to Lotusland. She currently serves as Chair of the Lotus Society Committee, the committee that focuses on building Lotusland's endowment.

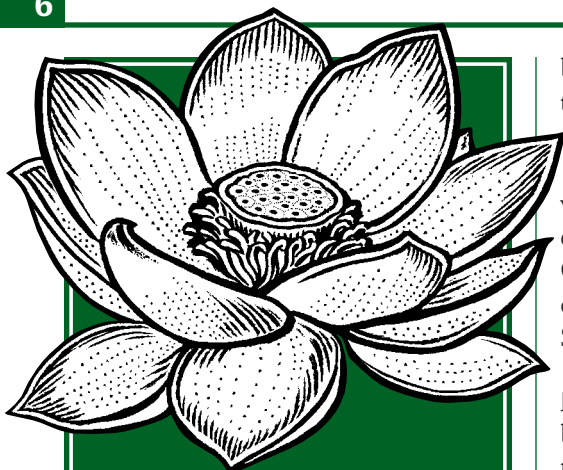
Peggy and Wilson live on the Riviera in Santa Barbara in a funky old house with a terrific view. Both are Realtors with Sotheby's International Realty. Peggy serves as Chair of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art Collector's Council.

Peggy says she is passionate about being a tourist here or wherever. "I love the challenge of remodeling homes, Vespa riding, morning coffee, gardens, most art, a good glass of wine and a walk on the beach. Not always in this order."

Peggy asks that you consider joining *The Lotus Society*. For more information on or to join *The Lotus Society*, please see page 6.



NELL CAMPBELL



The LOTUS SOCIETY

SHELBY BOWEN

WHEN I CALL SHELBY BOWEN, she answers the telephone with a bright “hello” that is always peppered with laughter. I asked Shelby about the nature of this coincidence, and she told me that there was a period of time when there was nothing to laugh about. But as with most things, it seems, Shelby’s resolute approach to the ups and downs of life have only sharpened her wit and intensified her fortitude.

Shelby grew up on the East Coast, as did her late husband, John—best known as Jack. They were well into their adult lives when circumstances

brought them together in 1974 while they were both living in New Jersey. Shelby and Jack discovered they were a perfect match. Shelby told me that when she and Jack would call on their estate attorney and friend, Arthur Gaudi, he would say to them, “The two of you together are like one person—Shelby and Jack!”

Jack and Shelby were happy in New Jersey. They had a profitable business in the Baxter Corporation, making parts for looms that weave jacquard fabrics, as well as in Astro Packaging, pioneering bubble-wrap. Their businesses kept them busy, traveling throughout Europe. “Business travel is the best kind,” Shelby explains, “because you really get to know people that way.”

But, after selling Astro Packaging, they contemplated retiring to East Hampton or possibly Florida, never thinking to leave the East Coast. They couldn’t agree on a new residence until they visited friends in San Francisco who convinced both of them to consider California. Wishing to be close to the ocean, they settled in Santa Barbara in 1989 and knew they were home.

Arthur Gaudi, a Lotusland Trustee, and now a Lifetime Honorary Trustee, brought the Bowens to Lotusland for the first time. Over the years, Shelby and Jack visited numerous times to walk around Lotusland and cultivate their personal love for gardens and plants. Shelby recalls the construction of the cactus garden, seeing it nearly completed with most of the cacti planted in place, but many more, in large wood crates, yet to be installed. “That was really amazing,” she says, marveling at the engineering required to move cacti as big as trees.

Jack passed away in late 2006, leaving not only a large hole in Shelby’s life, but also in the community. During his lifetime, Jack gave abundant and generous support to various nonprofit organizations and is especially remembered for funding the installation of the fountain at the Santa Barbara Zoo.

In 2007, Shelby decided to support Lotusland and honor Jack by joining *The Lotus Society* through a gift in Jack’s memory. “It was important to Jack to be

generous to the community,” Shelby tells me, “and he loved gardens.”

We are so pleased to have Jack’s memory, and Shelby’s infectious laughter, grace the gardens of Lotusland.

—Gwen Stauffer



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.

Members of *The Lotus Society* have each made a gift or bequest of \$10,000 or more to Lotusland’s Endowment. Names of *The 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, ext. 105.

NEW MEMBERS

THANK YOU to these additional new members for their generous support.

Rosaline Rea Amorteguy
Sharon and Harry Felder
Amy and Michael Mayfield
Gerald B. and Claire S. Parent



Shelby Bowen



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

Candyland at Lotusland

LOTUSLAND IS VERY GRATEFUL to our generous Sponsor—Mish Tworowski of Mish New York—and our wonderful Sustainers—Marcia Burt, Larry & Patricia Durham, I.D.O. Events, Inc., Rich & Luci Janssen, Kind World Foundation, Lady Ridley-Tree and Silver Horse Winery, as well as our terrific Contributors—Classic Party Rentals, Hollye & Jeff Jacobs, Beverly Smaniotto and Sotheby's—who made this fundraising gala a sweet success and one of the most fun and fascinating parties of the summer. We are also very grateful to Northern Trust who underwrote the cost of printing the colorful program.

Creative Committee Co-chairs Dawn Lafitte and Crystal Wyatt, along with their sugar coated committee—Anne Dewey, Sally Enthoven, Kate Gura, Hollye Jacobs, Jill Levinson, Alixe Mattingly, Sandi Nicholson, Debby Peterson, Lizzie Peus, Laura Shelburne, Cynthia Spivey, Daryl Stegall, Courtney Tentler, Caroline Thompson and Tamara Jensen—and I.D.O. Events, Inc. did a fantastic job of transforming the garden into a giant board game for fun-loving adults. The committee was delighted to have the expert design help of honorary committee member George Peterson. We are grateful for the excellent services of Sotheby's auctioneer Lisa Hubbard.

While enjoying the specialty drink “Rock Candy,” guests wound their way through the garden to “discover” Jolly

juggling in Gum Drop Land (Japanese garden), Mr. Mint tap dancing in the Peppermint Forest (aloe garden), the lovely Princess Lolly singing in the Lollipop Woods (water garden), the sinister Lord Licorice reciting dark and dismal poetry on the main driveway, and charming Queen Frostine (Wendy Jones from Whodidly Cupcakes) sharing shots of frosting in the blue garden. The happy King Kandy welcomed guests to the main lawn where they could enjoy watching Gramma Nut oversee the entertaining Gingerbread kids!

As guests were seated for dinner, Board President Larry Durham welcomed them and thanked our generous donors and talented event committee. Dinner featured braised short ribs with red dragon sauce and was exquisitely prepared and served by Elements Catering. Silver Horse Winery provided a 2009 Albarino and a 2008 Malbec to complement the meal, and they were both wonderful. The creative candy-themed centerpieces were by S.R. Hogue & Company, and the beautiful rainbow-colored linens were from La Tavola Linen.

After dinner was served, Lotusland Executive Director Gwen Stauffer took the stage to talk about Lotusland's community programs. Sotheby's Lisa Hubbard joined Gwen on the stage, and they did a marvelous job of auctioning seven very special items.

The first item was a private photo



PHOTOS BY NELL CAMPBELL

Karen Coyne was the high bidder on the beautiful earrings created and generously donated by Mish Tworowski of Mish New York.

shoot at Lotusland with photographer Liz Lonky, who specializes in spontaneous moments in natural settings. Always a favorite, this year's “replica” was Madame Walska's topiary sculpture the “Prancing Peacock” created by garden designer Lori Ann David. Next were two stunning sets of jewelry by nationally acclaimed jewelry designer Mish Tworowski of Mish New York—a pair of “Mish New York Vegas earrings” of Rose de France amethyst set in 18k white gold with pink sapphire accents and the “Mish New York Grape Bunch Cufflinks” in 18k gold with “stitch design” backings.

Sweet Escape, a fashion trip to the Big Apple for behind-the-scenes access to the hottest fashion show of the season, featured a consultation with acclaimed designer Lyn Devon—plus much more, including a gift certificate from Dressed in Montecito. Many of the elements of this item were arranged for, and donated by, committee member Hollye Jacobs.

The *Adopt a Garden* auction item is always popular, and this year was no different. It comes with your own magical cocktail party for 40 in the featured garden, the topiary garden. Proceeds from this item pay for the care and maintenance of this special garden for one year.

Bidding was fast and furious for the amazing painting *Dawn, Lotusland* by Marcia Burt featuring the morning light reflected in the water garden with

Continued on page 8



Our energetic and creative event committee members are Debby Peterson, Kate Gura, Laura Shelburne, Daryl Stegall, Hollye Jacobs, Co-chairs Crystal Wyatt and Dawn Lafitte, Caroline Thompson, Jill Levinson, Lizzie Peus and Tamara Jensen of I.D.O. Events. Dawn and Jill are also Lotusland Trustees. Not pictured are Anne Dewey, Sally Enthoven, Alixe Mattingly, Sandi Nicholson and Courtney Tentler.



Executive Director Gwen Stauffer and Board President Larry Durham welcomed guests to the sweetest event of the summer, Candyland at Lotusland.



Queen Frostine gave out "frosting shots" in the blue garden. She is pictured here with Celeste Scheinberg and Roz Amorteguy.

Continued from page 7

the historic bathhouse in the background. The painting was beautifully framed by Carleton-Kirkegaard Framing.

This year's *Dinner for Ten* featured celebrity Chef Stanton Ho, who is the Corporate Executive Chef for Chocolates á la Carte and has twice been named one of the "Top Ten Best Pastry Chefs" in the United States. Catering for the dinner was donated by Elements, and Silver Horse Winery donated the wine.

As twilight settled in the garden, the last item of business was drawing the winner of the raffle item, which was a *Sunday Brunch* in Lotusland's pavilion. This priceless item featured a private tour for eight followed by a gourmet feast in Madame Walska's private residence.

At that point, guests could enjoy the Candy Bar, which was a candy extravaganza! Thank you to Santa Barbara Biscotti for their delicious donation to the dinner dessert and Crystal & Clifford Wyatt for underwriting the Candy Bar.

The rising full moon heralded the end of a fabulous and successful evening. As guests departed, Princess Lolly handed out "lollipop" cookies donated by Jeannine's Bakery.

Lotusland wishes to thank the following supporters whose generosity ensured a delectable fundraising success.

—Anne Dewey

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Cabana Home



Hollye and Jeff Jacobs posed in front of the fabulous dessert bar. They supported the event as Contributors, and Hollye is a member of the hard-working event committee.



Event Contributor Beverly Smaniotto (SEATED, LEFT), her daughter Moriyah Simone, son Marc Smaniotto and daughter-in-law Becky Smaniotto enjoyed the delicious dinner by Elements.



Joan Jackson (LEFT) and her daughter-in-law Chana Jackson are longtime supporters of Lotusland.



Event Sustainers Luci and Rich Janssen had a great time at the sold-out event.



Annette Simmons and event committee member Sandi Nicholson enjoyed the garden before dinner.

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 Ted & Karen Coyne
 Nancy & Thomas Crawford, Jr.
 Anne & Bill Dewey
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AUCTION WINNERS

Ted & Karen Coyne
 Christina Djernaes
 Sandra & William Nicholson
 Ron & Stacy Pulice
 AJ & Valerie Rice
 Ed Snider
 Peter & Stephanie Sperling
 Meghan & Robert Stoll

**denotes in-kind donations*



King Kandy welcomed Michael and Anne Towbes to the party. Michael is a Lotusland Lifetime Honorary Trustee.



Stacy and Ron Pulice were the successful bidders on Marcia Burt's (CENTER) painting "Dawn, Lotusland," beautifully framed by Carleton-Kirkegaard Framing.



One of Maxx's regular duties was brewing and applying compost tea throughout the garden.

I WAS UNSURE what my internship would be like when I got up early for my first day at Lotusland. Mike Iven, Director of Grounds and Facilities, helped me get acquainted with some of the staff and showed me around the grounds, and then I immediately started working alongside some of the gardeners. Planting, weeding, hauling and a full day of hard work was a satisfying start to the internship. As my first week progressed, and I became more comfortable working in the garden, I really began to see how so many people fall in love with Lotusland. I truly admired the specific skills each gardener showed me and the amount of effort they put into making sure the collections look perfect. I knew from the start that I was going to learn a lot from this internship, and that I would enjoy my work here.

It was fantastic to learn pruning skills from Greg Kitijima during my first week at Lotusland. I had no idea that

pruning could be so beneficial for the health of a tree. Teaching me simple but essential methods, Greg showed me that removing interior branches allows more light and airflow to reach the main stem of a plant, ultimately improving its health and preventing pests from becoming established. Although it will take me many years to become skilled at pruning, my Lotusland internship has inspired me to continue practicing and building upon my horticultural techniques. I also really enjoyed learning the differences among the gardens, and how each gardener cares for their specific collections. I had already learned so much about the gardens my first week at Lotusland!

Because of the staff's kindness and knowledge, I felt at home at Lotusland by the time I began working alongside Corey Welles, Sustainable Plant Healthcare Coordinator. We immediately jumped into learning about sustainable methods for maintaining Lotusland, such as building native plant insectaries, replenishing soils with organic ingredients and sustainable pest management. These methods not only improve the overall health of the gardens, but they also ensure Lotusland minimizes the many negative impacts that a large-scale botanic garden might have upon the natural environment. Rather than spraying pesticides and herbicides, Corey taught me to consider the natural

ecology of the surrounding environment and showed me how to renovate soils and create habitats for beneficial insects. I feel so lucky to have learned all these sustainable horticulture skills, especially since there are not many other botanic gardens that invest in these practices. During our long conversations while out monitoring the garden, I was surprised to learn that few people know about the sustainable programs at Lotusland. Now that I have learned a fundamental basis for sustainable horticulture, I plan to spread this knowledge and use these methods in my future career.

I would like to thank everyone at Lotusland for a fantastic summer internship and for treating me so kindly during my stay here. I would like to thank Mike Iven, Esau Ramirez and the office staff for making me feel at home. I would also like to thank Greg Kitijima, Tany Ramos and all the other gardeners who took time out of their busy schedules to make sure I fully understood the techniques and skills they set out to teach me. Thank you Corey Welles, for your expert knowledge, advice and support. Finally, I would like to thank the Lotusland donors and Lotusland Trustees for making this opportunity available to me.

I will never forget the things I learned here, and I can only hope to someday repay Lotusland for this incredible experience. —Maxx Echt

MONDAY MORNING LECTURE SERIES

Tiles of Lotusland

WITH NOLA STUCKY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18

9:30 TO 11:30 AM

WITH A MAJOR in Art History from UCSB and more than 20 years of experience in the tile industry, NS Ceramic owner Nola Stucky has become quite knowledgeable about the history of making tiles. Nola's lecture will focus on her research of the tiles of Lotusland.

Cost is \$20 or one admission pass for members and \$35 for nonmembers. To make a reservation, please call 805.969.9990.

Twilight Time at Lotusland

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

3:00 PM TO SUNSET

ENOY A "SPIRITED" late afternoon in the garden on Halloween weekend. Children are welcome at this twilight tour and will be admitted free if they are in a costume or mask and accompanied by a paying adult.

You may tour the garden on your own or join a docent-guided tour. Festive refreshments will be served on the terrace between 4:00 and 5:00 PM.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore Lotusland at this enchanting time of day.

Please register by using the coupon on page 15.

Charles Glass...In His Own Words

PART VII 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

I WAS AWAY for a few weeks—to try to retain my sanity—and Bob [Foster] filled in for me as always. At this time she [Madame Walska] was repainting the front entrance on Sycamore Canyon Road. She had Ozzie da Ros in charge, even though painting was out of his line, for she always preferred working with some company with whom she was familiar. She went down to the gate with Bob to see how the work was coming along. Ozzie's painters had just finished painting it a bright, vivid pink and Mme. Walska, always hesitant to express her opinion for fear of being wrong or seeming foolish, leaned on her two canes and turned to Mr. da Ros, asking him in a sugary voice how he liked the new look. "Oh! It's beautiful Madame!" he dutifully responded. She then turned to the painters and smilingly asked their opinions and they all echoed da Ros' approval, telling her how beautiful they thought the newly painted gate posts and walls looked. She then turned to the gardeners standing nearby and asked their opinions and they all mumbled their approval. Finally she turned to Bob and asked him what he thought. He said, "It looks like a French whore house," at which point Mme. Walska

bolted up to her full height, glared at da Ros and spit out, "Repaint it!" turned abruptly and strode back to the main house without another word or glance.

Another time when I was taking time off, she called me at home on a Sunday and said, "You know, Lotusland is *beautiful*!" I responded that yes, Bob had told me that the work was going very well, but she interrupted and said, "No, I don't mean that...I mean in general ...it's really beautiful! People are always telling me that so I dismiss it as empty flattery, but today I was just walking through the gardens and I thought, they *really* are *beautiful*!" I realized with dismay that that was the first time, after decades of working with the garden, that she was ever able to just step back, take it in objectively and enjoy it! She always detested flattery or flowery talk and mistrusted any compliment.

To keep her informed of the work being done, she would have me regularly bring da Ros or Griffin to the door of her bedroom where she would always be sitting at her desk, constantly shuffling papers and rearranging them in stacks and piles, on the desk, on the windowsill, on the floor or on any handy surface. One such time, in late January of 1979, as da Ros stood there

outside the outer wrought iron and screen door, she asked him how long he would be there overseeing the work his men were doing in the garden, wanting, as always, a very specific and business-like answer. He gallantly responded, "As long as my services are required!" Her temper immediately flared and she shouted, "Don't give me an answer like that...I might say all day!" She looked him up and down, smiled mischievously and added, "I might say all night!" After which she laughed at herself and said that at her age she could get away with saying something like that. Then she giggled and admitted that she really didn't know what her age was, closer than give-or-take two years, explaining that when she married her first husband, the son of the doctor to the Czar of Russia, he had falsified her birth certificate by adding two years to her age, for she was only 16 at the time. She believed that when she came to America she rectified that change, but she wasn't quite sure, so she said, "I think I'm 98, but I'm somewhere between 96 and a hundred!"

NEXT TIME

MORE STORIES FROM the Glass memoir.
—Excerpts edited by Virginia Hayes

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Become a Lotusland Docent!

DOCENT TRAINING WINTER 2011

BEGINNING NEXT FEBRUARY, Lotusland will offer a docent training course providing all of the necessary information for conducting a tour of the garden. Instructors are drawn from Lotusland staff, the Santa Barbara community and other California academic and horticultural institutions.

These informative and enjoyable Monday-morning sessions last from 9:30 AM to NOON. A reception for those interested in learning more about the program will be held on Thursday, January 20 at a time to be determined. This event offers prospective docents an opportunity to learn more about docent training and to meet some of the very knowledgeable docents who currently lead garden tours. Please tell your friends and neighbors about this program.

If you would like to attend the reception or for more information, please contact Jean Parry, Volunteer Coordinator, at jparry@lotusland.org or call 805.969.3767, ext. 112.



Carol Beamer

Volunteer Profile: Carol Beamer

PASSIONATE ABOUT PLANTS

where “our task was to observe what we saw and to sketch and write. I couldn’t sketch a line I was so distracted by the beauty!” The next opportunity to visit came when Carol was the winning bidder on a Crane School auction item for a tour of Lotusland. “When I knew I’d be retiring, I started thinking about how I would volunteer. Then I saw an ad for Lotusland docent training and signed up for the 2005 class.”

While Carol is very familiar with all of Lotusland’s gardens, her favorite is the cactus garden. “The cactus garden reminds me of organic sculptures. It is so striking. It’s such a POW! When there are blooms, they look as if they were Velcroed on. And I love the fact that Madame and Merritt (Merritt Dunlap who donated his cactus collection to Lotusland) were such botanical buddies. They both had a passion for plants and remained committed to their visions.”

Carol’s love of teaching, science in particular, and her ease with people enable her to interact well with both adults and children visiting as part of our Fourth Grade Outreach Program. More than once she’s heard the kids on her outreach tours, here for the first time, say, “I want to work here when I grow up.” She enjoys conveying that “plants are cool.” “These tours are more than just a botany lesson. In fact, there are days when the kids get distracted by a turtle, the koi, a bird or a rabbit. To the kids, animals trump plants any day! But the Outreach Tour is an experience of much more than science. I love taking these kids around. The tours are so interactive.

There’s still such a sweetness to the kids at this age. And they’re so responsive.”

When not bringing her energy and enthusiasm to Lotusland tours, Carol continues her study of piano. Then there are her three book clubs, yoga, which she has practiced for 10 years and, more recently, travel. “Now, when I travel, I have more of an appreciation for gardens and people like Madame who had the foresight to leave gardens for future generations. I call it responsible wealth. I’m always comparing the gardens to Lotusland. Madame set the bar pretty high.”

Carol just completed her four-year term as a Crane School Trustee. She served as Chair of the Green Initiatives Committee and is proud of several “green” initiatives implemented during that time, including the installation of solar panels and her presentation on “Greening Your School” to members of the Independent Schools of California. As a result of her involvement at Crane, Carol says, “I came away with a much deeper sense of appreciation of the need for funding the gap between needs and income at places like Lotusland. I became a Lotusland member because I don’t think you can be an advocate unless you are one. I always point out the Wall of Honor and mention the Outreach Program because it always resonates with people.”

“There’s such a respect at Lotusland for volunteers. It’s an honor to feel respected. It’s an honor to be involved.” We are indeed honored to have you as one of our volunteers, Carol.—Jean Parry

Container Gardening Workshop

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6
9:30 TO 11:30 AM

CREATE A BEAUTIFUL PLANTER at our Container Garden Workshop. Lotusland provides all the materials needed for one planter, along with step-by-step instructions. This is the perfect opportunity to create something beautiful for your home, as well as some special holiday gifts. Space is limited, so please register early using the coupon on page 15.

Aloe Outing

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2011
1:30 TO 4:00 PM

SPEND AN AFTERNOON strolling in the gardens and enjoy more than 170 species and cultivars of aloes. Blooming when most plants are dormant, aloes display their colorful inflorescence during the winter months.

This opportunity to visit Lotusland during our off-season, when Lotusland is closed for public tours, is a special privilege for our members only. Please use the coupon on page 15 to register.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC

Thanks to All Lotusland Volunteers!

EACH YEAR LOTUSLAND staff gathers for a Volunteer Appreciation Picnic to thank our hard-working volunteers on the Monday closest to Madame Walska's June 24 birthday. This year it was June 21. Board President Larry Durham thanked the assembled group for the 14,000-plus hours of service contributed in 2009 by our 200 volunteers. Based on a national figure for non-profits, that translates into more than \$260,000!

As we do each year, we honored those who have provided increments of five, 10, 15 or more years of continuous volunteer service. This year's honorees are: **15 YEARS OF SERVICE**—Sherry Gilson,

Joan Haber, Valerie Halverson, Janet Hunter, Marge Kelly, Kathe Klock, JoAnn Mermis, Sharon Slade and Henrietta di Suvero; **10 YEARS OF SERVICE**—Tom Durkin and Faye Hampton; **5 YEARS OF SERVICE**—Arlene Belmontes, Carol Beamer, Catherine Birtalan, Allison Dittmann, Bob Doering, Linda Gluck, David Heinz, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Karen Howsam, Lee Jacoby, Joan Kreiss, Dorinda Murry, Suzy Pelovsky, Sandy Russell, Carolyn Stanton, Linda Thomas, Kitty Thomassin, Cricket Twichell, Charity Walton Masters, Guy Webb and Crystal Wyatt.

Thank you to all of our fantastic volunteers—we couldn't do it without you!
—Jean Parry



Madame Ganna Walska (LEFT) and Volunteer Coordinator Jean Parry waiting on the theatre garden stage to thank our talented volunteers.

KITTY THOMASSIN

Help Make Lotusland's Wishes Come True

WE HAVE A wish list of items big and small. To support any of these projects, please call Anne Dewey, Lotusland's Director of Development, at 805.969.3767, ext. 105 or email her at andewey@lotusland.org. Thank you!

🎥 DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA

We need to join the digital age to record docent-training classes and other educational presentations. \$1,500

🌳 OAK TREE PRUNING PROJECT

Many of Lotusland's majestic oak trees are seriously in need of trimming. Sponsor one tree for \$1,000

🔨 RENOVATION OF TILE BENCHES IN THE WATER GARDENS

The beautiful and historic tile benches that face each other at the north end of the water gardens are critically in need of renovation. \$5,236 to repair broken tiles and cracked cement

🏠 NEW ROOF FOR THE MAIN HOUSE

The house was built in 1920 and still has its original roof. Need we say more? \$80,000

Renewing Upper Level Members

JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2010

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Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐ Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX Expiration date _____

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*Fees are refundable only if cancellation is received one week before event.
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

Twilight Tour at Lotusland

Saturday, October 30 • 3:00 PM TO DUSK

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

\$50/members • \$60/nonmembers • \$10/child (children free if in costume or mask and accompanied by an adult)

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

Container Gardening Workshop

Saturday, November 6 • 9:30 TO 11:30 AM

\$50/members • \$60/nonmembers

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

Aloe Outing

Saturday, January 15, 2011 • 1:30 TO 4:00 PM

\$25/members • \$35/nonmembers

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

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For information, please call
805.969.3767 and speak with
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Our Membership Manager, Bambi Leonard, makes every effort to ensure that donor information is correct.
If you find an error or omission, please contact her at 805.969.3767, ext. 120 or bleonard@lotusland.org.



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Fall 2010 and Winter 2011 Member Events

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

Saturday, October 9

Holiday Succulent Wreath Workshop

9:30 TO 11:00 AM

Space is still available at press time.
Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Monday, October 18

Tiles of Lotusland with Nola Stucky

9:30 TO 11:30 AM

See details on page 10. Please call
805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, October 30

Twilight Time at Lotusland

3:00 PM TO SUNSET

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

Saturday, November 6

Container Gardening Workshop

9:30 TO 11:30 AM

See details on page 12. Please use the
coupon on page 15 to register.

Saturday, November 13

Last day of regular tours before
garden is closed until Wednesday,
February 16, 2010.

Saturday, January 15, 2011

Aloe Outing

1:30 TO 4:00 PM

See details on page 12. Please use the
coupon on page 15 to register.

Garden Shop Plant Sale, Artist Showcase and Self-guided Tours

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:30 AM TO NOON AND 1:00 TO 3:30 PM

STOCK UP ON HOLIDAY GIFTS and enjoy hot cider and a stroll in the garden on these special free shopping days just for our members and their guests.

Our Garden Shop will be filled with more than 500 plants—and our curatorial staff will be available to answer your questions. The shop is filled with a great gift selection including pots, books, jewelry by local artists, a new children's section, ceramics using Lotusland foliage, lotus tile coasters and much more. Members receive a 10% discount on all Garden Shop merchandise.

Gift memberships, "Membership in a Box," are beautifully packaged and

make a welcome gift. Members' 10% discount does not apply.

Our Artist Showcase in the main house features ceramics and jewelry in silver with semi-precious stones by Hana Anderson, Santa Barbara calendars by Jean Sankey and hand-painted scarves from Lark E. Designs. Members' 10% discount does not apply. A portion of the proceeds from sales will benefit Lotusland.

There is no charge for members and their guests, but reservations are required and space is limited. Please email reservation@lotusland.org or call 805.969.9990.

Please help us by carpooling.