



# LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS ♦ VOLUME 19 NO. 2 ♦ SPRING 2010

## Enemy of the Average

BY VIRGINIA HAYES

HERE ARE MANY unique qualities to the gardens at Lotusland that make it quite unlike other gardens of its size or history. No present-day visitor to Lotusland can leave without being seduced by the exuberance of the mass plantings of dramatic plants, the juxtaposition of the ordinary with the exotic, the unexpected contrasts when walking from one garden to the next and the use of form and color of plants instead of showy floral displays. The gardens are peppered with colorful, often rare minerals and whimsical statuary and may even be bordered by jewel-like chunks of slag glass.

Madame Ganna Walska wrote an autobiographical account of her life, *Always Room at the Top*, that she published in 1943 just before settling in Santa Barbara. It catalogs her history, accomplishments, philosophy and emotions up to that point in her life. Unfortunately, she never continued that written narrative, and her life in Santa Barbara is subject to much conjecture. What remains as silent testimony of that imaginative and productive time from the early 1940s until her death in 1984 is the exotic and wonderful garden that she named Lotusland. It may be, though, that we can infer some of her garden design intent by looking to her words in that earlier writing, for in her book she calls herself an "enemy of the average" and further declares that "I have a particular aversion to following the multitude in styles of any kind."

Madame Walska writes, "The unusual, the exotic, so appealed to me that during the Coronation [of Queen Elizabeth II], I had Suzy from Paris copy for me all the turbans the Oriental

*Continued on page 2*



Madame Walska was a self-proclaimed "enemy of the average." As she wrote, "Fifteen years before the general fad, I was wearing turbans, having borrowed the inspiration from Rembrandt's pictures."

LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

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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*

potentates were wearing at this unique event. I embellished them still further with the wonderful antique collection of Oriental jewelry in my possession."

For her marriage to Alexander Smith Cochran, she relates that she was "in a mourning state of mind" over her previous husband Dr. Frankel's death, but "just ordered one Callot [Callot Soers was an established design house in Paris from 1895 until 1937] black velvet evening gown called 'Venus' which I wore at the wedding dinner."

She goes on at length, however, to describe how she altered any article of clothing or jewelry to suit her own tastes. As she put it, "I have always been peculiar about dressing. I have defended my individualism against the standardized fashions of dressmakers. I was following the canvases of the great masters rather than the four-seasonal, necessarily passing moods of the Parisian couturiers who are obliged to change the style as often as possible to force women to buy new clothes." She even continues with, "Since I did not wear the same gowns or hats as other women—although I had more than dislike for eccentricity—I was looked on as being an eccentric person."

In her construction of a garden that she hoped "to develop to its maximum capacity into the most outstanding

center of horticultural significance and of educational use," just as she had contracted with the best couturiers of her day, Madame Walska consulted with the best designers that could be found. And just as she customized her clothing, she tailored her gardens to suit her fancy, against their advice at times, too. The cacti in front of the house are but one example. She overruled the protests of Lockwood de Forest, who would have insisted on a more conventional plant palette.

In her operatic career, Madame Walska studiously researched her roles before ever appearing on stage. She writes that before her first appearance as Cio-Cio San in *Madame Butterfly*, she was "giving much thought to this interpretation. I was reading much about Japan with its liliputian [sic] gardens, bridges and houses. I even had a little Japanese garden on my windowsill in my New York home until I was obliged to take it away as the children from all the neighborhood were gathering about my window. I studied the habits of Japanese men and women, their manners, the way they walk, the way they live every day while Farrère [a French novelist famous for his exotic settings] and Pierre Loti [also a French novelist who wrote *Madame Chrysanthème*, a novel of Japanese manners] provided me with the atmosphere of their homes and



While contemplating a new garden, Madame Walska collected ideas in the form of scrapbooks. These two pages show her interest in topiary and formal garden design.





*In the closing pages of Always Room at the Top, Madame Walska had just taken up residence in California and she wrote, "I never anticipated or planned my going to the Coast. I simply knew that there was something for me in those parts...My role was only to persevere in my present self-imposed discipline and go where and when the Fates might direct my steps." So Lotusland became that "Fate."*

Racinet [French author of the classic reference book on decorative ornament of the major cultures of the world] instructed me on the correct dress; and viewing the Japanese collections in the museums—especially the Musée Guimet in Paris with its rich and rare specimens—enlarged my vision in true

surroundings." For her gardens, Madame Walska was no less thorough. She created scrapbooks of articles and photos for many proposed projects. The topiary garden and the horticultural clock with its zodiac symbols were all envisioned through this process.

In all her work, for she never thought

that she should or could afford leisure, Madame Walska believed in continually striving to improve herself and her surroundings. She wrote, "It seems to me that the best way to develop creativeness is to learn the technique of the great artists and to imitate them. First, do as well as they do; then try to surpass them in order finally to surpass yourself. To put it in the language of sports, always try to beat your own established record for in Art as in everything else, if we do not advance, we retrograde."

As in her pursuit of a singing career, which at times seemed to her to be doomed to failure, Madame Walska refused to acknowledge defeat in her garden improvements. Torrential rains might saturate the soil and topple her newest cactus plants or searing heat threaten the ferns, but she would not desist, as she had already professed a belief that "Now the word 'impossibility' does not exist in my vocabulary any more. Nothing is impossible!" Clearly, a woman who claimed that "Never could I do anything comfortably or halfway" would bring her creative talents from the actual stage to the new one that was her garden in Santa Barbara.

## Director's Letter

OF ALL THE BENEFITS for a member of Ganna Walska Lotusland, the ability to stroll through the gardens—on your own—seems to be the most precious benefit of all. In my mind, there is nothing better than the chance to linger in one garden room alone or with close friends and take in the special beauty of a favorite space, quietly listening to nature's sounds and perhaps catching the fragrance of some ephemeral bloom.

You may have a different concept of the perfect visit to Lotusland, and we hope you take full advantage of the benefits your membership provides to have many extraordinary experiences in Madame Walska's enchanting gardens.

Some of you have expressed some confusion about your Lotusland membership benefits. We have heard you and are giving serious consideration to

changes in the membership program that will make it easier for you to use your benefits. But before we do, we would like to hear from all of you.

You recently received our request to respond to a Lotusland membership survey, either electronically or by regular mail. I hope you will take the few minutes needed to fill out the survey and return it to us.

We would like to know what you think about Lotusland's membership program: how you use your benefits, which benefits mean the most to you, why you are a member and what we can do to improve membership benefits and our membership service. Your response will be very important in helping us create an enhanced membership program for you. While there are many reasons to be a member, we hope your primary reason is to sustain the



RICK CARTER

Gwen Stauffer

remarkable, magical, historical place that is Lotusland.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Warmest regards,  
Gwen L. Stauffer

# LotusFest!

**SATURDAY, JULY 17**

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

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

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

*Enjoy these afternoon delights:*

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

*Mellow jazz*

*Delectable hors d'oeuvres*

*Lotus lore galore*

*Lotus viewing*

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

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

To register for this fun and enlightening event, please use the coupon on page 15.



## NEW TO THE COLLECTIONS

### Eugenias

WHILE MANY of the plants at Lotusland are rare and exotic, there are some exceptions. And even though Madame Walska loved to plant her specimens in large numbers, such as the hundreds of golden barrel cacti, a few species of more common plants are planted in even larger numbers. These are the sturdy shrubs that make up the hedges throughout the property, creating walls for many of the garden rooms. Occasionally, even these tough plants need to be replaced for one reason or another. A recent planting of *Syzygium paniculatum*, commonly called eugenia, in the parterre is one example.

The tall hedges flanking the decorative pottery plate behind the Neptune fountain are nicely symmetrical on that side. On the "back" side, however, they

were thicker in one direction than the other. As the background for the roses on that side of the terrace, the effect was a little jarring. In addition, the closeness of the very thick portion to the roses themselves made maintenance difficult and reduced the necessary flow of air to keep the roses healthy. The hedge was also composed of a mixture of *Syzygium* and *Pittosporum undulatum*. To correct all these conundrums, the hedge was removed on that side and new plants installed in line with the other side.

If left untouched, eugenia would eventually grow to become a very large tree; one old specimen at Stow House in Goleta is more than 90 feet tall. With continual shearing, however, it can be maintained as a handsome hedge. New growth emerges as a reddish bronze



Hedges of several species of plants create the intricate pattern that defines the parterre.

VIRGINIA HAYES

and matures to glossy deep green.

In the late 1980s, a damaging insect pest was introduced to the area that marred the appearance of many eugenia hedges. By 1991, a natural predator was found and introduced. As the predator insect populations grew, a balance was established and now, with consistent care, eugenia hedges can again grace the landscape. In just a short time, our new plants will fill out and complete the more perfectly ordered composition.

—Virginia Hayes

## Kisa Heyer Named Lifetime Honorary Trustee at Annual Meeting

AT ITS 2010 Annual Meeting, Lotusland honored Kisa Heyer by electing her a Lifetime Honorary Trustee. This action recognizes Kisa's outstanding service to Lotusland during the eight years that she was a member of its Board. She served as President for two years and at various times during her tenure, she chaired the Development and Lotusland Celebrates Committees and served on many others.

As impressive as this sounds, it does not begin to describe the energy and commitment that were evident

throughout her years of service. Kisa went well beyond fulfilling her duties as a Trustee and Board President. During her tenure as President, Lotusland found itself without an Executive Director. Kisa was a calm, smart and dedicated leader during this transition period. She either served on or kept in touch with every committee. Kisa's hard work and devotion brought Lotusland through a challenging time.

Lotusland is grateful for the service Kisa so generously gave and is pleased that she will join Merryl Brown, Robert Emmons, Arthur Gaudi, Anne Jones, Michael Towbes and Carol Valentine as a Lifetime Honorary Trustee.

New board officers were introduced at the Annual Meeting. They are Larry Durham, President; Marianne Sprague, Vice President; Ian Fisher, Secretary and Michael Mayfield, Treasurer. Nominating and Governance Chair Jill Levinson thanked the energetic and generous Trustees whose terms have ended: Jane Copelan, Linda Gluck, Kisa Heyer, Harry Kolb, Sandi Nicholson, Brett Posten, Barbara Siemon, Cynthia Spivey and

Nancy Wood. Some will remain active on committees, and we know that all will continue to be a part of Lotusland.

Jill welcomed six new Trustees: Marc Appleton, Andy Chou, Dawn Lafitte, Tim Schiffer, Susanne Tobey and Peggy Wiley.

Treasurer Michael Mayfield gave a financial report, Executive Director Gwen Stauffer gave a State of the Garden address and Curator Virginia Hayes presented a program highlighting Lotusland's 2009 accomplishments. Refreshments followed in the pavilion.

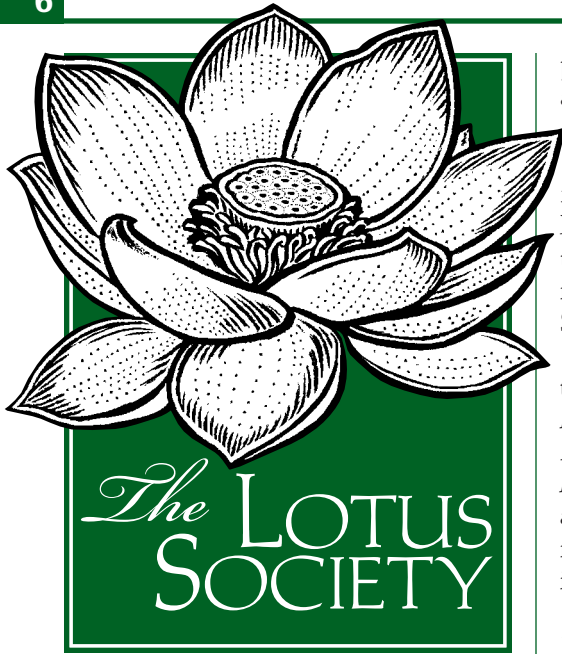


Kisa Heyer (LEFT) and Gwen Stauffer, Executive Director. Kisa was named Lifetime Honorary Trustee at Lotusland's Annual meeting.



Larry and Patricia Durham. Larry was elected President of Lotusland's Board of Trustees.

PHOTOS BY NELL CAMPBELL



## BOB AND CHRIS EMMONS

**B**OB EMMONS has always been interested in gardens, and being the gardener in his family, he always seems to have a garden project going. He may not have known how big a project he was getting into when one evening, during a social gathering at his home, Carol Valentine and Anne Jones, two matriarchs of Lotusland's founding board, cloistered Bob in his own library. Carol spoke frankly, "Now Bob, I want you to be on the board for Lotusland, and I won't let you out of this room until you say yes." Bob consented, and a new era for Lotusland began.

Bob joined the Board in 1997 and was elected President two years later in 1999. By the next year, he was leading Lotusland in its first strategic planning

process. Along with Arthur Gaudi, another founding Trustee and Madame Ganna Walska's estate lawyer, Bob believed it was critical to have a plan for generating financial support to ensure Lotusland's long-term future. Together, they created *The Lotus Society*, which received gifts and pledges in excess of \$100,000 in its first year.

Bob told me that at the time, he thought his goal of 50 members to *The Lotus Society* in 10 years was ambitious. Now, on the 10th anniversary of *The Lotus Society*, our members exceed 100, and today *The Lotus Society* Fund is responsible for more than \$2.5 million in gifts and bequests.

Bob explained, "When we created *The Lotus Society* endowment fund, it was our intention to guarantee the long-term health of Lotusland. The endowment needs to be of a size that will transit Lotusland through the years, no matter the economic condition." Bob added, "We created *The Lotus Society* with an initial entry level so that it is painless for anyone to participate."

Bob believes the success of the program is a great tribute to the Lotusland patrons who understand the value of *The Lotus Society* in ensuring the success of Lotusland for years to come. Bob told me, "I am especially excited that members of *The Lotus Society* have added to their initial gifts over time, and it is pleasing to see them recognized on the Wall of Honor."

When I asked Bob and his wife Chris what gardens of Lotusland were most inspiring to them, Bob said the Japanese garden has always touched him. But, Bob told me, the topiary

garden and the cactus garden are his favorite garden projects made possible by the fund-raising efforts of his friends and board colleagues Carol Valentine and Mike Towbes during his time as Board President.

In the end, Bob and Chris agreed that the great lawn holds special significance for them. "I feel at home on the lawn," Chris explained. "We have 20 years of memories there—memories of all the past Members' Family Days, Lotusland Celebrates, LotusFest and musical programs." Bob and Chris look forward to making more memories at Lotusland.

*Chris and Bob hosted the very first Annual Lotus Society Recognition Luncheon at their home and are delighted that they are doing so again on June 6 in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the program.*

—Gwen Stauffer



## NEW MEMBERS

**T**HANK YOU TO THESE additional new members for their generous support.

Kisa Heyer  
Anonymous

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, extension 105.



Bob and Chris Emmons



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



## HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

# Replanting Lotuses

### LOTUSES AND CRAYFISH IN THE JAPANESE GARDEN POND

IN THE LATE 1800s, Ralph Kinton Stevens built what is now the Japanese garden pond as a reservoir for his nursery. He planted Indian lotuses, which eventually filled the pond. Later, crayfish were introduced to the pond presumably as a tasty treat for a hungry gardener. Over time, the crayfish decimated the lotuses, one of their favorite foods, and catfish were employed to reduce the crayfish population. An ecological balance eventually resulted in many years of happy coexistence among lotuses, water lilies, crayfish, catfish, koi, turtles and birds.

Stevens built the pond in the best place to capture runoff from winter rainstorms. But this also meant sediment built up over the past 100 years, which



Esau Ramirez and Tim Cordero inspect lotus tubers prior to planting.

resulted in the need for its removal in 2007. The pond was drained, and water lilies and koi were temporarily relocated while a crew removed several feet of silt using wheelbarrows and shovels. Unfortunately, the ecological balance was lost although the *Procambarus clarkii* (Red Swamp Crayfish) survived as they are able to tolerate dry spells of up to four months.

After the pond was refilled and the lotuses that were never removed from the pond began to grow, the crayfish emerged to eat all the new growing tips of lotus tubers. Several measures were used to restore the lost ecological balance. Young catfish were introduced to the pond and are growing. An aeration system was installed in 2009. The water lilies overwintered in the pond and emerged early this spring. Staff began a trapping program and removed more than a thousand crayfish from the pond in 2009. We started trapping again this spring and purchased lotuses, *Nelumbo nucifera* ssp. *nucifera*, that were planted in pots (to be removed later) in the pond. The new growth is protected from the crayfish to give the lotuses a chance to establish a foothold.

Overall pond health is improving. Water hyacinths provide an ideal breeding habitat for the crayfish and will not be grown in any of Lotusland's ponds in 2010. Trapping crayfish will continue to



Crayfish traps are easy to make, and hot dogs are the bait. INSET: Red swamp crayfish live an average of five years, can survive four months in dry mud, have been known to migrate several miles in comparatively dry areas, and females lay 100 to 500 eggs.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL IVEN

be a focus. We're optimistic that the lotuses will once again flourish in the Japanese pond!

### LOTUSES IN THE WATER GARDEN

THIS SPRING NEW CULTIVARS of lotus were planted in the lotus pond that was divided into eight segments in 2004. Overgrown and underperforming cultivars were replaced with *Nelumbo nucifera* ssp. *lutea*, N. 'Chawan Basu' and N. 'Alba Grandiflora.'

Another cultivar, N. 'Momo Botan,' was planted in a box in the hardy water lily pond. *Victoria amazonica* (giant water lily) planted from seed will also be growing in the hardy lily pond this year. Trapping of crayfish that migrated from the Japanese pond to the lily and lotus ponds is ongoing.

—Mike Iven

## Mother's Day Tea and Tour

SATURDAY, MAY 8 • 1:30 TO 4:00 PM

Don't miss this opportunity to spend the afternoon before Mother's Day enjoying tea, refreshments and music on our pavilion patio and main lawn.

Explore the garden on your own, or reserve a docent-led tour. This is the perfect treat for someone special in your life!

Please use the coupon on page 15 to register.

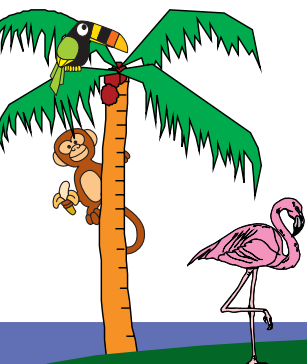
## Thank You to Our

### GARDEN SPONSORS

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Ms. Erin Tappan

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Mrs. Andy Pearson  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Simmons  
Ms. Beverly Smaniotto  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Tobey  
Jack Baker, Wallis Foundation



# Members' Family Day

## SATURDAY, MAY 15

Lotusland wishes to thank you, our members, for your support by hosting our 13th

Generously Sponsored by  
*Thomas & Nancy Crawford, Jr.*

Activities will include



PHOTOS BY RICK CARTER



COURTESY PHOTOS

Hula Anyone? performing  
Face-painting, games, activities and  
Dress up in costumes and take home a free So  
Live Hawaiian

## Garden Admission to Members' Family Day is Free!

But you must reserve space for your family by mailing the reservation form,  
along with a non-refundable valet parking fee of \$15.

Due to the popularity of this event and to allow as many members as possible to attend,  
**Lotusland requests ONLY ONE VEHICLE PER MEMBERSHIP.**

No phone reservations, please. Please reserve early, as this event always quickly fills to capacity.

Bring your own picnic or pre-purchase a lunch catered by Rincon Catering.  
The \$12.50 adult lunch includes Polynesian slaw, tropical fruit salad, a bag of chips and your choice of  
a chilled grilled chicken sandwich served with field greens and sesame mayonnaise on specialty bread  
or a chilled grilled peppers and squash sandwich with sprouts and hummus on specialty bread.

The \$7.50 child lunch includes carrots with ranch dressing, a bag of chips and  
a peanut butter and grape jelly sandwich on white bread.

You may add to, cancel or change your lunch order through April 30.

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

Complimentary juice, soft drinks and water are available all day.  
In our continuing effort to minimize our use of plastics, water dispensers and cups will  
be available or you may fill your own container. "Lotusland" stainless steel  
water bottles are available for \$10 in the Garden Shop.

Complimentary shave ice will be served at  
the shave ice booth from NOON to 2:00 PM.





# Pacific Island Paradise

10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

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

Sponsored by:  
in Honor of Their Grandchildren

will include:



g two shows in the theatre garden • 11:15 AM TO NOON AND 2:15 TO 3:00 PM

crafts from the garden for children and adults on the main lawn • 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

outh Seas souvenir photo taken by photographer extraordinaire Bob DeBris • 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

n-inspired music by Kapo Ku on the main lawn • NOON TO 2:00 PM

Please return this reservation form to: Ganna Walska Lotusland, Attn: Member Events, 695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108.  
**Your confirmation, vehicle payment pass and a map will be mailed to you upon receipt of your reservation form.**

Bring your own picnic or order prepaid lunches below. Your lunch tickets will be mailed with your confirmation.

## Reservation Form

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ Total no. in car \_\_\_\_\_ Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ No. of adults \_\_\_\_\_ No. of children 3 to 12 \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Non-refundable Valet Parking Fee:

Enclosed is our family's \$15.00 valet parking fee = \$ 15.00

### Payment Method:

☐ Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX

We prefer to bring our own picnic ☐

Or please order:

Adult Lunch \$12.50 × \_\_\_\_\_ (NO.) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Vegetarian Lunch \$12.50 × \_\_\_\_\_ (NO.) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Child Lunch \$7.50 × \_\_\_\_\_ (NO.) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

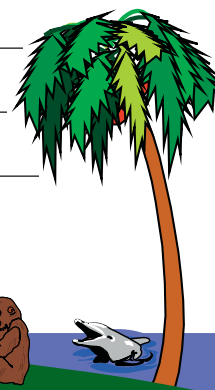
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVC # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Don't delay mailing your reservation form!**

You may add to, cancel or change your lunch order through April 30.



# Charles Glass...In His Own Words

PART V 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

MADAME EMPLOYED those rules of landscaping which she felt were safe and unshakeable.

They tended towards the geometric rules more popular in European formal gardens. Lotusland was not that kind of a formal garden and the combination of techniques was jarring and outlandish, but it was what in part gave Lotusland its unique and charmingly eccentric quality. By these gardening rules or principles, I mean, for instance, that she considered unassailable the principle that things go from smaller to bigger, from short to tall; smaller in the front and at one or both ends and taller in the back. So, in effect, you would get rows and formal arrangements intermixed with very naturalistic or free form plantings, a strange combination of styles that is pure, typical, unadulterated Lotusland! She also liked borders, and felt they too were "safe," that is not subject to ridicule. So she would tend to add borders to any garden area, and then she would often add another border around the border, and sometimes yet another border around the border of the border.

These techniques were most in evidence along the main drive just inside the front gate. The drive was lined with

towering eucalyptus trees. In front of these trees she planted rows of arborescent aloes, then in front of the aloes she planted rows of hundreds of *Agave attenuate*, shorter than the aloes. In front of these she had planted a border of low sedum. Each of these borders made the drive proper narrower and narrower until there was hardly room for two wheelbarrows to pass, let alone a vehicle. The effect was impressive, however, but the plants were suffering: from oak root fungus, from nematodes and from improper irrigation. We suggested building a berm of looser, more porous soil for the *Agave attenuate* plants so that their feet would not "stay so wet." This meant removing every single plant in this area and cutting off the roots, taking fresh cuttings, rooting the new cuttings and replacing them in the new soil. We took advantage of the situation to sneak the borders of the drive back a bit each day, widening it to where a truck or vehicle could again pass. I would catch Mme. Walska eyeing the drive suspiciously, suspecting there was something different but not quite being able to place it. She tended to like the effect so she didn't say anything, but she was clearly puzzled and oblivious to the fact that the drive

ended up two to three times wider than it had been.

We covered the widened drive with gravel, even though it was back to the original width, for in planting the borders in front of the borders she had actually had the gardeners break holes with long bars into the drive pavement in order to plant the plants. The remarkable thing about her landscaping of the agaves in this area is that she had personally supervised the original placement and planting of each of the several hundred agaves, checking to see that each was oriented so that its best aspect would be directed at visitors who would walk up the main path when the gates were opened for garden tours, the only time these big gates were ever used. Mr. Sumida, the local nurseryman, used to tell us of visiting Lotusland when he was supplying all these agaves, and seeing her directing the planting in such a way that she might succeed in planting perhaps only four agaves in the course of an entire day.

## NEXT TIME

MORE STORIES FROM the Glass memoir.

—Excerpts edited by Virginia Hayes

## Twilight Tour: Happy Birthday Madame

SATURDAY, JUNE 26  
3:30 TO 6:30 PM

ENJOY THE LONGER days of summer and celebrate Madame Walska's birthday at this special Twilight Tour. Hors d'oeuvres, wine and a birthday cake honoring Madame's birthday will be served on the geranium terrace from 4:30 to 5:30 PM.

You and your guests can choose to reserve a docent-guided tour or explore the gardens on your own.

To register, please use the coupon on page 15.



JANET EATON

## 2009–2010 Docent Class Graduates

LOTUSLAND PROUDLY WELCOMES 22 new docents to our stellar group of continuing docents. The new docents successfully completed a rigorous 14-week training program to prepare them to lead public tours of Madame Walska's garden. They are

Chris Allen, Julie Cohen, Stella Day,  
Debra DiPaolo, Len Grabowski, Sharon Graves,  
Mary Childs Grigsby, Kay Howell, Karl Kras,  
Murph Levy, Anita Mills, Craig Morgan,  
Debbie Murphy, Christine Nail, Adele Nguyen,  
Hilary Peattie, Petti Pfau, Judy Piper,  
Jim Scorso, Barbara Silverander, Hillary Tentler  
and Justine Janice Tompkins.



## Lotusland Welcomes New Trustees

**L**OTUSLAND IS FORTUNATE to have six energetic additions to its Board of Trustees: Marc Appleton, Andy Chou, Dawn Lafitte, Tim Schiffer, Susanne Tobey and Peggy Wiley. Marc and Andy are profiled below, and the others will be featured in future issues.



### MARC APPLETON

MARC APPLETON is Principal and President of Appleton & Associates, Inc.—Architects, with offices in Santa Monica and Santa Barbara, California.

His design work has received many awards and has been widely published in *Architectural Digest*, *Town and Country*, *Sunset*, *The Classicist* and other periodicals. He has consistently been named one of *Architectural Digest's* top 100 designers since its inception in 1991.

His architectural work also includes landscape design and planning. Among recently completed projects are the renovation and landscape planning for the San Ysidro Ranch Resort, as well as

numerous private gardens.

Among his publications are “George Washington Smith: An Architect’s Scrapbook,” “California Mediterranean” and “New Classicists.” Marc recently assisted in the publication of “Casa del Herrero: The Romance of Spanish Colonial.”

A native of California and Arizona, Marc currently serves on a number of committees and boards, including the Board of Trustees for The Cooper Union, New York, The Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America, the Casa del Herrero Foundation, and the Dean’s Council of the Yale School of Architecture. Marc was a Lotusland Facilities Committee member before joining the board and will continue serving on that committee.

A graduate of Harvard College, Marc has an M.Arch. degree from The Yale School of Architecture. He and his wife, Joanna Kerns, have three children and reside in Santa Barbara.

### ANDY CHOU

ANDY CHOU was born in Taipei, Taiwan and graduated with distinction from Vassar College, where he was a Ford Scholar, with an A.B. in Economics and East Asian studies.

Andy began his career in 1988 with the former Chemical Banking Corporation in New York, which ultimately became part of the JP Morgan Chase organization. He graduated from the Corporate Finance and Investment Banking Management Program with

specialization in Mergers & Acquisitions and Structured Finance. His most notable transactions include the buyouts of RJR Nabisco, Kroger Supermarkets and Ethan Allen, Inc. In 1993, he co-originated a \$1.2 billion leverage finance portfolio at Fuji Bank in New York before departing in 1998 to launch a global internet start-up in the business-to-business space. This business was subsequently sold in 1999. Andy joined Northern Trust in Santa Barbara in 2000 and currently is Region President, responsible for all aspects of Northern’s integrated investment management, corporate fiduciary and private banking business.

An active community volunteer, Andy serves on the Board of Directors of the Music Academy of the West and United Cerebral Palsy.

Andy lives in Santa Barbara with his wife, Lynn, and their baby daughter, Abigail Liang Hui. Andy is a member of Lotusland’s Finance Committee and Nominating and Governance Committee.



COURTESY PHOTOS

## Cacti and Cocktails

SATURDAY, MAY 22  
3:00 TO 6:00 PM

**S**TROLL IN THE gardens and enjoy the magnificent epiphyllum and cacti blooms. Photographs that date from the cactus garden’s 2003 installation will show you how much the cacti have grown in just seven years.

Take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy the cactus garden—and other gardens as well—in the late afternoon light. You may explore the garden on your own or request a docent-led tour. Specialty cocktails, wine and hors d’oeuvres will be served from 4:00 to 5:00 PM.

Please use the coupon on page 15 to register.



BILL DEWEY



Pat Sheppard

AS THE YOUNGEST in a Navy family of five, Pat Sheppard spent her early life living all over the United States from Memphis, Tennessee to Swarthmore, Pennsylvania to Key West, Florida to San Diego, California to name a few. Pat attended Whittier College, inspired by the founding Quakers and their philosophy, as Pat expresses it, “that women are just as good as anybody.” The college was also attractive because it offered a study abroad program in Copenhagen. So she headed off to spend half of her sophomore year in Scandinavia with several European side trips including one to Rome to “warm up.”

After college, the lure of distant destinations and a call for duty inspired Pat and her husband to sign up for the Peace Corps. They were stationed in The Philippines in Tuguegarao, Cagayan. After that adventure, they moved to Santa Barbara in 1975.

Pat’s introduction to Lotusland came while she worked at UCSB. She was part of the staff who reported to then Executive Vice Chancellor Don Crawford. Don happened to be married to Lotusland volunteer Sharon Crawford, who was completing her book *Ganna Walska Lotusland: The Garden and its Creators*. When Don asked if any on his staff would like a tour of Madame’s garden, Pat gave an enthusiastic “yes!” and enjoyed Sharon’s tour thoroughly. Inspired by that visit, Pat became a member of the Docent Class of 2001.

“I loved everything about the docent training—the history of the early nurserymen, Madame’s energy and vision, the concept of sustainability. I found that coming to the garden for classes and later to give tours was, and is, a

wonderful experience. I especially love giving tours to people who are first-time visitors, sharing the stories, the history. People are always amazed at the gardens, the beauty of the plants and the sustainable methods that maintain such healthy collections. The visitors’ eyes light up. It’s great!”

Pat completed an MA in history while working at UCSB, and it was there that she met her current husband, Ernie Witham. Of her career at UCSB, Pat says: “You feel as if you’re part of something important when you work at an excellent educational institution like UCSB.”

Transforming unappealing spaces may be a calling—her father once transformed the bar area of their San Diego home into an indoor orchid greenhouse. Years later, Pat and Ernie took on the project that “is my pride and joy.” They received permission from their condominium board to remove an asphalt parking area and turn it into a garden. The work was arduous—roto-tilling, carting, composting and planting—but asphalt has been replaced with a garden filled with plants in hues of purple, blue and pink. Echium and tulip trees enhance her neighbors’ views. “Gardens are good for the soul,” says Pat about her “parking lot garden” eight years later.

After retiring from UCSB in 2008,

Pat is taking up the piano again after a hiatus of many years. Her volunteer activities include Soroptimist, CAMA, the Pearl Chase Society, the American Heart Association and, in between giving tours at Lotusland, she’s enjoying the docent training at Casa del Herrero and can hardly wait for the September docent training at The Historical Society to begin!

Pat most enjoys spending time with her children and their families, and she shares a healthy sense of humor with her husband, who writes the humor column, “Ernie’s World,” for *The Montecito Journal*. Travel is still an important part of her life, and she’s busy planning a trip to France with her daughter Christy and her granddaughter Leila.

Pat highly recommends experiencing the many ways to volunteer at Lotusland. “I’ve enjoyed being a tour facilitator, a mentor and evaluator for docents in training, a member, an Outreach docent for fourth graders and helping at a variety of events. Now, I want to learn from and help the garden staff.” This from someone who “didn’t even know there were such things as cycads or euphorbia when I took docent training back in 2000!”

Next time you’re at Lotusland, you’re sure to find Pat enjoying herself in one of her many volunteer roles.

—Jean Parry



SAVE THE DATE

candyland at lotusland

SUNDAY, JULY 25  
4:00 PM

Sustainer \$10,000 (ten tickets, five VIP parking passes and a Sustainer gift)  
Contributor \$7,500 (ten tickets, five VIP parking passes and a Contributor gift)  
Benefactor \$5,000 (ten tickets, a VIP parking pass and a special gift)  
Patron Table Host \$3,750 (ten tickets and a VIP parking pass)  
Patron \$1,000 (two tickets) • Tickets \$300 each

Invitations will be mailed in mid-June. Remember, this event always sells out!  
Please contact Anne Dewey, Director of Development  
at 805.969.3767, extension 105 for more information.



# Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

DECEMBER 2009, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2010

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## Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form

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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

### Mother's Day Tea and Tour

Saturday, May 8 • 1:30 TO 4:00 PM

CHECK ONE: ☐ Docent-guided tour ☐ Self-guided tour  
\$55/members • \$65/nonmembers • \$25/children 5-12

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

### Cacti and Cocktails

Saturday, May 22 • 3:00 TO 6:00 PM

CHECK ONE: ☐ Docent-guided tour ☐ Self-guided tour  
\$50/members • \$60/nonmembers

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

### Twilight Tour: Happy Birthday Madame

Saturday, June 26 • 3:30 TO 6:30 PM

CHECK ONE: ☐ Docent-guided tour ☐ Self-guided tour  
\$50/members • \$60/nonmembers

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

### LotusFest!

Saturday, July 17 • 2:00 TO 5:00 PM

\$75/members • \$85/nonmembers

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

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## Spring and Summer 2010 Member Events

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

### **Saturday, May 8**

#### *Mother's Day Tea and Tour*

1:30 TO 4:00 PM

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

### **Saturday, May 15**

#### *Members' Family Day: Pacific Island Paradise*

10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

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

### **Saturday, May 22**

#### *Cacti and Cocktails*

3:00 TO 6:00 PM

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

### **Sunday, June 6**

#### *Lotus Society Luncheon*

NOON

For information on how to join *The Lotus Society*, call Anne Dewey at 805-969-3767, extension 105.

### **Saturday, June 26**

#### *Twilight Tour:*

#### *Happy Birthday Madame*

3:30 TO 6:30 PM

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

### **Saturday, July 17**

#### *LotusFest!*

2:00 TO 5:00 PM

See details on page 4. Please use the coupon on page 15 to register.

### **Sunday, July 25**

#### *Candyland at Lotusland*

4:00 TO 8:00 PM

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

### **Tours**

Regular Tours and Family Tours are offered at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM, Wednesday through Saturday, between February 15 and November 15. Family Tours are available for groups with children under age 10 and are child and parent friendly. They are separate from regular adult tours. Adult members, \$20 or use admission passes; ages five to 18, \$10; four and under, free. Call 805.969.9990 for reservations.