



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS ♦ VOLUME 19 NO. 3 ♦ SUMMER 2010

The Topiary Garden: Ten Years and Growing

BY VIRGINIA HAYES

THE PERSPECTIVE OF TIME often leads to interesting and enlightening observations. When the topiary garden was re-created in 1999, it was somewhat difficult to imagine that the skeletal frames would ever be clothed in their greenery. Ten years have passed, and in fact many of them have grown so well that their steel framework is no longer visible. A mythical hippocampus gallops in place, chess pieces are forever locked on their squares and the peacock struts his stuff among many other creatures and architectural shapes.

The effort of many horticulturists, designers and craftspersons has resulted in a delightful and whimsical garden very reminiscent of the one Madame Walska created more than 50 years ago. At that time, she acquired a number of animal shapes that had been grown and trained at the Osaki Plant Zoo in the Los Angeles area. They were ultimately planted around the floral clock at Lotusland and became a favorite with garden visitors.

In those years, Madame Walska opened her garden every year to benefit a local charity such as Santa Barbara Beautiful or Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, and press clippings invariably mentioned the topiary garden as a highlight of the tours. The shrubs that made up the first topiary collection were often already large plants that Mr. Osaki then shaped even further. This resulted in animals with great individuality, such as an alligator balanced on its tail, a large-beaked bird unlike anything seen in nature and a dancing pig, as well as a flock of assorted birds, ducks and geese. The frames were somewhat flimsy, and over the years, the original topiaries lost

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VIRGINIA HAYES

Spiral, globe and teardrop shapes, as well as the whimsical animals of Madame Walska's time, now grow in Lotusland's topiary garden.

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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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Printed by Jano Graphics
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Printed on recycled and recyclable paper
with vegetable-based inks

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.



A larger than life-size pig, horse and rearing elephant danced around the clock in the 1950s and 1960s.

Continued from page 1

their shapes, the plants also declined or died and all were finally removed by the mid-1990s.

The clock renovation in 1997–98 and the subsequent re-creation of a topiary garden were largely spearheaded by one knowledgeable and dedicated volunteer. Lori Ann David works as a landscape designer who specializes in topiary and had been trained as a docent at Lotusland. Her diligent perusal of the archives revealed many photographs of the old topiary creations, as well as scrapbooks in which Madame Walska had gathered ideas about formal gardens and topiary. Lori Ann's years of experience paid off handsomely when Lotusland agreed to her plans and her generous donation of her services to build and plant a new topiary garden.

She faithfully replicated a selection of the larger of the original shapes in sturdy new welded frames. In addition to the fanciful animals, an assortment of geometric shapes—spirals, cones and globes—were added. Such projects, of course, require funds, and a fund-raising campaign was initiated to honor founding trustee Carol Valentine, who was board president at the time. This effort not only succeeded in raising the necessary donations in her honor, but also far exceeded its goal, ensuring that money was also available to partially fund the ongoing maintenance of the new garden.

Topiary, the art of training and clipping shrubs or trees into imaginative shapes, has a long history. Pliny the Elder, an early Roman naturalist, had topiary creations in his Tuscan garden



By the 1980s and 1990s, the former gorilla, elephant and bear topiaries had lost their shapes, becoming "cloudlike" instead.



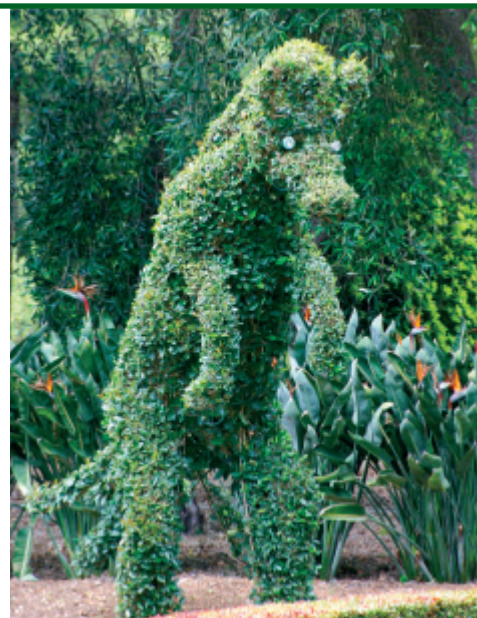
Lori Ann David installed the frames in 1999 for the new topiary garden. Here she works on the horse.

in the first century A.D. During the Italian Renaissance, there was an upsurge in sculpted shrubbery on an even larger scale. From Italy, this unique garden art form had spread throughout Europe by the 17th century. It fell out of favor for a time as being too artificial, but it has never completely died out, and topiary creations can be found in

even the most modern gardens today.

By selecting appropriate species of plants—long-lived and vigorous in growth—topiary forms may last many decades. There are figures that are more than 100 years old in several historic gardens. The oldest topiaries in the United States are at the Green Animal Topiary Garden in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Some are seed-grown boxwood shapes that were started in 1912. In England, where this art has reached a pinnacle of excellence, there are plants of extreme age, even as old as 300 years. While keeping topiary in good shape requires regular shearing, once plants have reached their ultimate forms, this is relatively easy. Currently, Lotusland contracts with the experienced staff of Lori Ann David Design Studios to do the necessary pruning. Combined with the excellent care that Lotusland's horticultural staff also provide the young topiary garden here, it will surely be a beloved feature of the garden far into the future.

Many of the topiary creatures that Madame Walska bought had hardware features to enhance their designs. Light bulbs (not wired) were inserted where



The horse as it looks after ten years of growth and with its new crystal eyes.

eyes would be, painted mesh material formed the interior of open mouths, even wooden "horns" completed the goat's natural physique. Now that the replacement forms are maturing, adding such character-infusing embellishments would more fully animate them, and Lori Ann and Lotusland staff are experimenting with some similar touches.

Director's Letter

GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND is a magical place where, amid the constant beauty, some ephemeral moments of utter splendor happen. Just back from a stroll through the garden in early June, I am still flush from the spectacular display of the astonishingly flamboyant but very short-lived blooms of epiphylliums in the tropical garden and cacti in the cactus garden. Knowing you will not read this until early July, I wish I had the ability to be in instant contact with you—if that were the case, I would urge you to hurry over and see these precious botanical gifts while they last.

My wish to have this ability will soon come true. Thanks to the support of an anonymous donor, we are in the very early stages of creating a new website for Lotusland—one that will be attractive, interactive and constantly up to date, with clear information and numerous opportunities to learn what's happening at Lotusland. We plan to

create an electronic newsletter, to which anyone can subscribe, to keep members and friends informed of garden happenings. And we have just launched a Ganna Walska Lotusland page on Facebook to share the freshest photos and information about the gardens, the plant collections and all of our events and activities. While you can browse our Facebook now—and see photos of some of those spectacular but passing blooms—we expect to have our new web site launched this autumn.

It is a worthwhile enterprise to celebrate these fleeting moments in the garden for the thrill and the bliss they provide and to remind us that our next opportunity to experience them is another year in the future. We are spending much time thinking about the future of Lotusland, and so we will begin a strategic planning process later this year to clarify Lotusland's vision, mission and core values; identify our weaknesses, opportunities and critical issues; and



Gwen Stauffer

determine our future priorities and strategies. With the new world reality in place after the global market crisis of 2008, it is imperative that we look far to the future to determine what we should do, today, to keep Lotusland permanently beautiful, accessible and influential.

Warmest regards,
Gwen L. Stauffer

SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE

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.

Enjoy these afternoon delights:

Wine tasting from Santa Barbara County's premier vintners

Mellow jazz • Delectable hors d'oeuvres

Lotus lore galore • Lotus viewing

Ikebana (the art of Japanese flower arranging)

Price is \$75/members and \$85/nonmembers. To register, please call 805.969.9990.



RICK CARTER

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

our Endowment Fund to guarantee the preservation of this botanical treasure. To help accomplish this, *The Lotus Society* was created 10 years ago.

Lotus Society Committee Chair Peggy Wiley, Trustee Michael Mayfield and committee member Joanne Holderman are pictured in front of the Wall of Honor where names of *Lotus Society* members are engraved. The occasion was a tour and reception for *Lotus Society* members and their guests, who might be interested in joining *The Lotus Society*.

Outright gifts, pledges or bequests of \$10,000 or more to Lotusland's Endowment Fund qualify for membership in *The Lotus Society*. To help, please visit our website at lotusland.org or contact Director of Development Anne Dewey at andewey@lotusland.org or 805.969.3767, extension 105.

We welcome new members:

Rosalind Rea Amorteguy

Sharon and Harry Felder

Amy and Michael Mayfield

Gerald B. and Claire S. Parent

MADAME WALSKA left her fortune to Lotusland to help ensure that the fabulous garden she created will be open to the public in perpetuity. It is imperative that we build

Santa Barbara Gardens Tour

WITH VIRGINIA HAYES

SATURDAY, JULY 24 • 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

LOTUSLAND MAY HAVE the largest display of lotuses in a public garden for miles around, but many local landscapers include water features in their creations. A few of them endeavor to make a perfect growing

environment for lotuses and other aquatic plants. Curator Virginia Hayes will lead a tour of local gardens featuring ponds, fountains and more. Participants will have a chance to see a wide range of water elements from large to small,

including displays of Lotusland's name-sake flower, the lotus.

Transportation, admission and a buffet lunch are included. Space is very limited. Please use the coupon on page 15 to reserve your spot.

NEW TO THE COLLECTIONS

A Young Oak on the Main Lawn

THIS NEW ADDITION to the garden has actually spent its whole life here, having germinated from an acorn just a few years ago.

In the natural course of things, Lotusland's oak trees (*Quercus agrifolia*) drop their acorns every year, and every year some of them sprout and grow. Often, they don't survive many years, or sometimes they are in the wrong place and are weeded out early in their lives. However, if they show promise of becoming a sturdy tree in a spot that is not detrimental to other plants or buildings, they are encouraged to grow. Sometimes they can take their place naturally in the canopy over the garden right where the acorns fell, but at other times, their presence is needed elsewhere.

When the large oak on the lawn had to be removed after it finally succumbed

to heart rot, the staff deliberated on whether and how to replace it. All agreed that such a focal point should be reinstated, and a survey of some of the young oaks on the property revealed several good candidates for its successor.

Over the last decade or so, Lotusland staff members have successfully transplanted young oaks when older ones have failed, and in this instance, it seemed like the best solution. By moving a locally grown and acclimated tree, not only were costs saved, but the use of large equipment needed to install a boxed or balled tree from a nursery was avoided.

It will be a few years before it fills the space that its predecessor did, but as the old song goes, "it was from a little acorn that the oak tree grew."

—Virginia Hayes



VIRGINIA HAYES

A new coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) has been planted to replace the one that shaded the lawn near the blue garden.

100% Agave

AN INTOXICATING LECTURE BY STEVEN TIMBROOK
SATURDAY, JULY 31 • 2:00 TO 4:00 PM

KICK OFF Old Spanish Days with an informative lecture by Lotusland's Director Emeritus, Steven Timbrook.

Steve will discuss the fascinating botany and chemistry of agaves and the techniques behind the production of tequila, mescal and pulque, three of the

most common alcoholic beverages manufactured from the century plant.

In keeping with the spirit of the occasion, a reception with the food and drink of Mexico will follow—shot glasses provided.

To register, please use the coupon on page 15.



STEVEN TIMBROOK

Summer Twilight Tour

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14
3:30 TO 6:30 PM

AS THE LONG, HOT SUMMER winds down, take the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of Lotusland in the lovely light of the late afternoon. Begin your tour with a cool beverage in a commemorative Lotusland wine glass, yours to keep. Wine and light hors d'oeuvres will be served on the geranium terrace overlooking the main lawn 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.

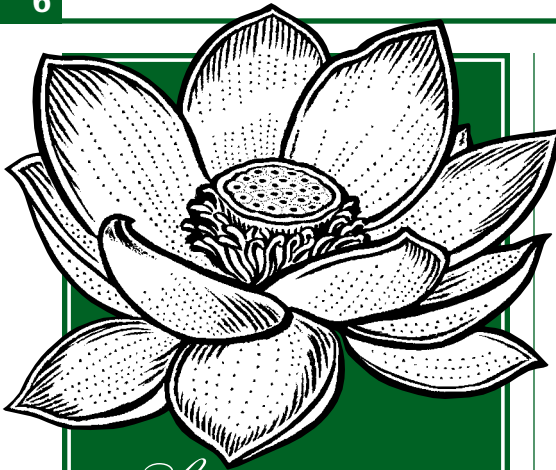
Wreath Making Workshop

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9
9:00 TO 11:00 AM

MAKE YOUR OWN living wreath! Join us for a fun and informative succulent wreath-making session at Lotusland.

The workshop is designed for beginners and will lead you through the steps to build a beautiful living wreath that can be used year-round with minimal care. All necessary materials to construct one 14-inch wreath are included in the workshop fee.

Space is limited to 15 adults. Please register early by using the coupon on page 15.



The LOTUS SOCIETY

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON HONORS MEMBERS OF THE LOTUS SOCIETY

THIS YEAR'S recognition luncheon for members of *The Lotus Society* was held on June 6 at the beautiful estate of Lifetime Honorary Trustee Robert Emmons and his wife Christine. *Casa Cima Linda* is the restored former Billings Estate with magnificent gardens overlooking the Channel Islands. *The Lotus Society* now has 104 members who have each made a gift, pledge or bequest of \$10,000 or more to Lotusland's Endowment Fund. Lotusland is grateful for the special support of these members who are helping to ensure the future financial well-being of the garden. For more information, please contact Lotusland's Director of Development, Anne Dewey, at 805.969.3767, extension 105.



Executive Director Gwen Stauffer and Bud and Lynda Stuart enjoyed the opportunity to see the Emmons's noteworthy art collection. The Stuarts joined The Lotus Society late in 2009, so this was our first chance to thank them in person.



Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree enjoyed talking with our gracious host Chris Emmons. The Emmonses also hosted the very first Lotus Society luncheon when the program began 10 years ago.



Our generous host and Lifetime Honorary Trustee Bob Emmons welcomed new Lotus Society member Rosalind Rea Amorteguy to Casa Cima Linda.



Lotus Society Committee chair Peggy Wiley (CENTER) with new Lotus Society members Sharon and Harry Felder.



Jamie and Marcia Constance, Barbara Bradley and David Myrick chatted in the lovely setting.

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Garden Planning Projects

LOTUSLAND'S HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE comprises trustees, staff and volunteers with tremendous cumulative knowledge and experience relating to plants grown at Lotusland. Improving cultural conditions, expanding collections, restoring original design and geographical reorganizing of specimens are the main criteria for developing renovation plans that will remain true to the integrity of Ganna Walska's garden design, while increasing the diversity and value of the collections. Early this year, the committee began planning and preparing for renovations in four priority areas: blue garden, cycad garden, lower bromeliad garden and Japanese garden.

The blue garden was designed by Ralph Stevens and originally installed sometime between 1947 and 1955. The garden is characterized by the silvery-blue-gray foliage of *Festuca glauca* 'Elijah Blue,' succulent chalk sticks (*Senecio mandraliscae*), Chilean wine palm (*Jubaea chilensis*), blue Hesper palm (*Brahea armata*), *Frucraea roezlii*, blue fox tail agave (*Agave attenuate* 'Boutin Blue') and blue Atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauc'). All are plants that prefer full sun. However, during the past 50 years, the trees in and adjacent to the blue garden have shaded the understory, making growing conditions less than ideal for groundcovers. The renovation plan to improve cultural conditions will include

tree trimming, tree replacements, re-grouping some existing plants and a new irrigation system.

In April, Horticulture Committee members met in the cycad garden to discuss specifics of renovation and expansion plans. A previous multi-year renovation between 1999 and 2003 addressed cultural problems related to oak root fungus in parts of the garden. The new plan will relate to space issues for new plants, excess shade in some areas, the need for an efficient irrigation system and soil improvements. It will be a multi-year project.

In September 2009, the loss of a California live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) that provided much shade, the removal of a large beetle-infested Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) and other necessary tree work in the area of the lower bromeliad garden resulted in the need for a renovation planning session to address cultural conditions and design options. The last major renovation of the bromeliads occurred in the late 1980s under the direction of the notable plantsman Bill Paylen, who designed the original fern garden for Ganna Walska in 1968. For many years, Mr. Paylen consulted with horticultural staff on a quarterly basis regarding the fern and bromeliad gardens. The valuable lessons learned from Bill will be considered as the renovation plan progresses.



MICHAEL IVEN

The blue garden renovation will improve conditions for the long-term care of the plants.

The Japanese garden is the most horticulturally complex and challenging garden at Lotusland. The soil is clayey, water runs off the steep slopes, mature plantings prohibit major soil renovation and maintenance requirements are high. A multi-year renovation plan will address these and other issues.

Maintaining Madame's garden at the highest level is at the core of our mission. The planning process to renovate these four areas is well underway, but fund raising will be necessary before the work can be completed. We are grateful for the skill and dedication that all members of the Horticulture Committee bring to this process, and we will keep you informed as the renovations progress.

—Mike Iven

The President's Party

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

This annual cocktail party is a thank you to our members who have joined or renewed at the Garden Patron level of membership or higher.

Trustee Marianne Sprague and her husband Norman are opening their beautiful Montecito home and garden for this year's event. Invitations will be mailed in late August.

Income from upper level memberships is essential to our operating budget. Please consider increasing your level of membership to Garden Patron and join us for a very special recognition party.

If you have questions, please contact Anne Dewey, Director of Development at 805.969.3767, extension 105 or andewey@lotusland.org.

Thank You to Our

GARDEN SPONSORS

Mr. & Mrs. Frederick W. Gluck
Jack Mithun & Mercedes Millington
Lynda Weinman & Bruce Heavin

GARDEN BENEFACTORS

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Durham
Staffan & Margareta Encrantz
Mrs. Maurice E. Faulkner
Ms. Cyndee Howard
Mr. & Mrs. Jon B. Lovelace
Mr. & Mrs. John K. Pearcy
Mrs. Andy Pearson
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Simmons
Ms. Beverly Smaniotto
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Tobey
Peter & Leslie Tolan
Jack Baker, Wallis Foundation

Members' Family Day, May 15,

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THOMAS & NANCY CRAWFORD

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

Crawford family members, including several of Tom and Nancy's grandchildren, thoroughly enjoyed the day.



The audience got into the spirit of things at the "Hula Anyone?" performances in the theatre garden.



Executive Director Gwen Stauffer (LEFT) greeted guests at the Visitor Center for the 13th annual Members' Family Day.



Doing the Limbo was one of the many games and activities that delighted guests.



A prolific sculptor carries his wares.



Kapo Ku performed Hawaiian-inspired music while guests picnicked on the lawn.

2010 Pacific Island Paradise

AWFORD, JR. IN HONOR OF THEIR GRANDCHILDREN



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



With her lei on her hat, this young guest is anxious to explore all the great Members' Family Day activities.



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



Young painters put the finishing touches on the giant mural created by artist and staff member Gail Lucas.



The hula hoop contest attracted members of all ages.



Photographer Bob DeBris brought a vast array of costumes to transform guests for treasured souvenir photos.



The crafts table provided many engrossing activities.



The complimentary shave ice was a big hit.

Charles Glass...In His Own Words

PART VI 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*

CHARLIE ALSO WROTE about Madame Walska's penchant for dictating exactly where and at what height a particular plant should be installed and how that affected the overall appearance of the garden.

ONE OF THE MEXICAN gardeners told us how he was carrying a large and heavy agave in a five gallon container, and about to set it down when she cried "Stop!" The gardener seemed to be ignoring her demand and continued lowering the plant towards the ground. Mme. Walska turned to the other Mexican gardeners and demanded, "How do you say 'stop' in Spanish?" Manuel, the fellow who was holding the agave said, "Espera." Mme.

Walska turned back to him and cried, "If you know what it means, why don't you do it!" He grunted back, "...because it's heavy!" She immediately sent some other gardeners to help him hold the pot at that level while the rest of the gardeners went to get soil in wheelbarrows in order to raise the soil level up ("raise the hole") to where the plant was being held!

Another aspect of Lotusland style was a certain flatness to some of the garden areas. This was partly the result of her wanting to see things looking as big as possible and partly through possible nearsightedness. She didn't want the plants to be too far away, so she was always demanding that they

be placed closer to the path, and this took away a lot of the depth the garden would otherwise have had. On the plus side, it made it appear much more extensive, because many of the garden areas tended to be narrow and "flat" and the meandering paths doubling back to another area so you often wouldn't realize how close you were to where you'd just been! The wonderful part is that occasionally you'd get these long vistas between these small, intimate specialized garden areas. It, too, added to the fantasy quality of Lotusland.

NEXT TIME

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

Dawnridge

THE MAGICAL ESTATE OF TONY DUQUETTE
MONDAY, AUGUST 16
9:00 AM TO 4:30 PM

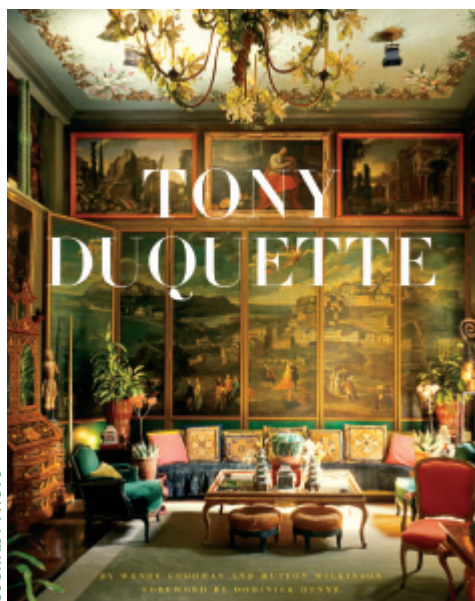
DESIGN ICON Tony Duquette was not only the first American artist with a one-man show at the Louvre, but his jewelry, art, costumes, interiors and furniture made him a favorite of the Hollywood social set and of such arbiters of style as

Elsie de Wolfe and the Duchess of Windsor. The parties he hosted at Dawnridge, his Beverly Hills estate, are still ranked among the swankiest and most amusing gatherings that Hollywood has seen. Please join us for this rare opportunity to tour the house and gardens of this legendary estate featured in the recently published books *Tony Duquette* by Wendy Goodman and his collaborator and business partner, Hutton Wilkinson, and *More is More* by Hutton Wilkinson.

Transportation by motor coach from Lotusland to Beverly Hills and admission to Dawnridge are included. Following the tour, we will stop for a no-host lunch in Century City.

Please register by using the coupon on page 15.

PLEASE NOTE: As Dawnridge is a residence, there is no disabled access to the estate, and the restroom facilities have no special accommodations. Comfortable walking shoes recommended.



COURTESY PHOTO

Digital Photography Workshop

WITH
LARRY JON FRIESEN
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
9:00 AM TO NOON

PHOTOGRAPHER AND Santa Barbara City College biology professor Larry Friesen incorporates digital photography into his classes and has used his photography in textbooks, research articles and his own Internet courses in biology, as well as in online nature magazines *Santa Barbara Nature* and *Nature Journal*. Larry developed this workshop for photography enthusiasts. It starts with a presentation in the sunken drawing room and then moves outside for demonstrations of different techniques using equipment provided by Larry. Attendees then use their own cameras to experiment in the garden. Beginners and seasoned photographers are encouraged to attend, as there will be something for all levels of experience.

Please register by using the coupon on page 15.

Lotusland Welcomes New Trustees

LOTUSLAND IS PLEASED to welcome Dawn Lafitte and Tim Schiffer to its Board of Trustees.



COURTESY PHOTO

DAWN LAFITTE

DAWN LAFITTE was born in New York and raised in Pasadena. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Communications at the University of Colorado at Boulder. After graduation, Dawn attended a nine-month focused program on Merchandise Marketing at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising.

Dawn's interests include tennis, travel and cooking, and she volunteers for numerous non-profits including both of her children's schools, Laguna Blanca and Crane Country Day. She is the tenth grade co-advisor for the National Charity League and a member of the Knowlwood Tennis Club Board of Directors.

Dawn is a member of the Development Committee and has been involved with Lotusland as a member of the *Lotusland Celebrates* Committee for a number of years, serving as *Lotusland Celebrates* Tri-chair in 2009 and taking over as Co-Chair in 2010, with Crystal Wyatt as her partner. Dawn says "I discovered Lotusland on a fourth grade field trip with one of my daughters! I love working to support this local treasure!"

Dawn and her husband, David, live in Montecito with their three daughters, Allie, Caty and Emily.

TIM SCHIFFER

Tim Schiffer was born and raised in northern Wyoming. After earning a degree in art at Yale, he came to Santa Barbara in 1980, where he taught art and was gallery director at the College of Creative Studies at UC Santa Barbara.

Tim earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from UCSB in 1992. In 1993, he became Curator at the Museum of Ventura County in downtown Ventura and was named Executive Director in 1999. In that role, he has overseen a number of significant projects to expand the Museum's programs and facilities.

Tim lives in Santa Barbara with his wife, Pamela Kendall Schiffer, and devotes his free time to gardening and, occasionally, painting. He is chair of Lotusland's Audit Committee and a member of the Development Committee.



NELL CAMPBELL

Membership Survey Results

WE HEARD YOU AND WE THANK YOU

THANK YOU, current and former members who responded to our membership survey. More than 32% of you responded—enough to eliminate any margin of error and give us enough statistical and anecdotal data to measure and validate the information you shared with us.

You told us that the main reasons you have become members is to get free admission passes, to have the ability to self-guide and, most of all, to support Lotusland's mission. You also told us that of all the membership benefits, the two you value the most are the free admission passes and the ability to self-guide. We agree—access to Lotusland with the

ability to linger in the gardens is a very precious privilege!

Based on your responses, you confirmed our concern that many of you are sometimes confused by the many membership benefits and sometimes frustrated with the restrictions associated with free admission passes. You also told us that you want more events and education programs. Our Conditional Use Permit restricts or prohibits some of the activities you requested, but we will work to expand our offerings within the mandated guidelines.

This, and much more of what you told us, will be our guide over the next several months as we work to improve the membership program to serve

you better. We are very grateful for your candor and generosity in responding to the survey. We appreciate that many of you shared your contact information with us.

The winner of our survey response drawing is Daniella Morgan of San Juan Capistrano. Daniella and her guest will join us for LotusFest on July 17, when we will celebrate our namesake flower, the sacred Indian lotus.

We are very grateful for your ongoing membership support, and we look forward to bringing a new membership program to you in the upcoming months.

—Gwen Stauffer



Sherman Vincent

Volunteer Profile: Sherman Vincent

DESIGNS FOR LIFE

Engineering from UCSB and developed negotiating skills that came in handy when competing for large government contracts against behemoths such as McDonnell Douglas. "You learned to work with sharks or they'd eat you." Sherman obtained a US Patent through Raytheon for an electronic subsystem that prevents an enemy from jamming an aircraft's radar warning receiver. During his last six years with Raytheon, Sherman was part of a team assigned to develop special test equipment and software for the Navy. He transitioned to a 20-hour-a-week job, all the while contemplating how he would spend his time when he retired. "I needed to create a new life for myself. I didn't want to spend my time at a local coffee shop talking about the old days with former colleagues. I had begun restoration on my 1964 white Mustang convertible, but it was taking up too much of my life. I wanted to do something different than I'd ever done and develop new interests."

About this time, Sherman saw an ad in a newspaper about Lotusland's Docent Training class. He had already visited the garden several times in the 1990s and had become a member of Lotusland. But the chance to learn something new and join a group with more women than men appealed to him. Sherman says, "A group of women is a whole lot easier to speak with than

trying to make a day-long pitch to a bunch of Navy guys who could be very adversarial." Sherman, who travels fairly regularly and enjoys the perks of his Horticultural Society and Lotusland memberships, says, "Since taking docent training, I now have a higher level of appreciation for plants. I take this knowledge with me when I travel." Sherman's recent travel took him to his ancestral home of Biar, Spain.

When he isn't traveling or leading docent tours for Lotusland, Sherman takes son Robert on camping trips in the Winnebago he bought right after retiring. Music and dance also fill some of Sherman's hours. His Yamaha Clavinova, complete with full band song playback for hundreds of songs, simulates a grand piano and every other instrument, making Sherman a veritable one-man band. He continues to enjoy his karaoke equipment, and his eyes light up when he talks about being a student of Leslie Sack, who teaches him ballroom and Latin dance routines.

"Lotusland is one of the most beautiful places in our area. It's like a diamond in Santa Barbara County. As a docent, I enjoy informing and entertaining people in such a creative environment. I also like the opportunity to learn new things and participate in the various field trips afforded to volunteers."

Thank you, Sherman, for your years of service.
—Jean Parry

AFTER WISCONSIN NATIVE Sherman Vincent graduated from the Milwaukee School of Engineering with a degree in electrical engineering in 1967, he had multiple job offers from companies around the United States. But when he came to interview with the multi-national defense company Raytheon in Santa Barbara, he thought, "This is what heaven looks like! I don't care if the other offers tempt me with the prospect of higher salaries." So Sherman signed on with Raytheon in his first job out of college and spent 35 years there in electrical design and management including responsibility for a receiver design section.

During his career with Raytheon, Sherman garnered a Master's Degree in

Monday Morning Lecture Series

THREE MONDAYS IN 2010 • 9:30 TO 11:30 AM

The cost for each lecture is \$20 or one admission pass for members and \$35 for nonmembers.

Please use the coupon on page 15 to register.

LOTUSLAND'S SUSTAINABLE GARDENING PRACTICES COREY WELLES MONDAY, AUGUST 23

PLANT HEALTHCARE COORDINATOR Corey Welles will summarize Lotusland's sustainable horticulture program. Topics include applied entomology (insects), fertilizers, amendments, mulches and holistic approaches to gardening.

MONTECITO HILLTOP BARONS NEAL GRAFFY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

NOTED HISTORIAN Neal Graffy will profile the backgrounds of the magnificent Montecito estates of George Owen Knapp (Arcady) and William H. Cowles (Eucalyptus Hill), as well as other exceptional properties.

TILES OF LOTUSLAND NOLA STUCKY MONDAY, OCTOBER 18

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. Her lecture will focus on her research of the tiles of Lotusland.

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MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2010

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

Santa Barbara Gardens Tour with Virginia Hayes

Saturday, July 24 • 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

\$90/members • \$100/nonmembers • INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION, ADMISSION AND A BUFFET LUNCH

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

100% Agave: An Intoxicating Lecture by Steven Timbrook

Saturday, July 31 • 2:00 TO 4:00 PM

\$50/members • \$60/nonmembers

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

Summer Twilight Tour

Saturday, August 14 • 3:30 TO 6:30 PM

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

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

Dawnridge: The Magical Estate of Tony Duquette

Monday, August 16 • 9:00 AM TO 4:30 PM

\$90/members • \$100/nonmembers • INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION AND ADMISSION

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

Monday Morning Lecture Series

9:30 TO 11:30 AM • \$20 each or one admission pass/members • \$35 each/nonmembers

☐ LOTUSLAND'S SUSTAINABLE GARDENING PRACTICES/COREY WELLES • Monday, August 23

☐ MONTECITO HILLTOP BARONS/NEAL GRAFFY • Monday, September 20

☐ TILES OF LOTUSLAND/NOLA STUCKY • Monday, October 18

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

Digital Photography Workshop with Larry Jon Friesen

Saturday, September 25 • 9:00 AM TO NOON

\$55/members • \$65/nonmembers

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

Wreath Making Workshop

Saturday, October 9 • 9:00 TO 11:00 AM

\$50/members • \$60/nonmembers • INCLUDES MATERIALS FOR MAKING ONE 14-INCH WREATH

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Summer and Fall 2010 Member Events

MANY LOTUSLAND EVENTS are open to nonmembers,
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Saturday, July 17

LotusFest!

2:00 TO 5:00 PM

See details on page 4. Please call
805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, July 24

Santa Barbara Gardens Tour with Virginia Hayes

9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

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

Sunday, July 25

Candyland at Lotusland

4:00 TO 8:00 PM

Invitations were mailed in June. For
tickets or information, please call
805.969.3767, extension 120.

Saturday, July 31

100% Agave: An Intoxicating Lecture by Steven Timbrook

2:00 TO 4:00 PM

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

Saturday, August 14

Summer Twilight Tour

3:30 TO 6:30 PM

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

Monday, August 16

Dawnridge: The Magical Estate of Tony Duquette

9:00 AM TO 4:30 PM

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

Monday, August 23

Lotusland's Sustainable Gardening Practices with Corey Welles

9:30 TO 11:30 AM

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

Monday, September 20

Montecito's Hilltop Barons with Neal Graffy

9:30 TO 11:30 AM

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

Thursday, September 23

The President's Party

See details on page 7. Invitations will
be mailed in August.

Saturday, September 25

Digital Photography Workshop with Larry Jon Friesen

9:00 AM TO NOON

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

Saturday, October 9

Wreath Making Workshop

9:00 TO 11:00 AM

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

Monday, October 18

Tiles of Lotusland with Nola Stucky

9:30 TO 11:30 AM

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

Did You Know...

that you can enjoy a luncheon
at Lotusland before or after
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