



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS ♦ VOLUME 19 NO. 1 ♦ WINTER 2010

Change in an Aging Garden

BY VIRGINIA HAYES

IN ANY GARDEN change is inevitable. One that includes elements of many eras of native plant growth and human development is certainly no exception. For example, the coast live oaks that provide the backdrop of so many of Lotusland's garden spaces are either survivors from more than 100 years ago or their direct descendents. One such stately tree has recently been laid low. The branches of the oak that once spread wide over a portion of the great lawn and supported dozens of hanging pots of succulent donkey tail plants—topped with their whimsical, yet practical screen hats—are no more.

For years, Lotusland's staff and outside arborists have monitored the health of this iconic garden feature. During early work to improve the aging infrastructure of the garden, indiscriminating contractors severed many of the roots of the oak while trenching to install new irrigation lines. Inevitably, decay set in to these roots and traveled into the trunk itself. In spite of nearly 20 years of the best possible care since then, the oak became not only a danger to staff and visitors, but, should it have fallen on its own, to other trees and plants in its path. No longer clothed in vibrant green and with its trunk beginning to split wide open, the time had come to remove it. During the week of October 19, staff and a contracted arborist began the sad task of dismantling this giant.

It is unclear whether this tree was deliberately planted or merely allowed to grow where its acorn sprouted. An aerial photograph of the garden from the mid-1920s shows it to be just a small sapling surrounded by the lawn adjacent to the Gavit's new mansion.

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PHOTOS BY MICHAEL IVEN

Limb by limb, the coast live oak (Quercus agrifolia) that once dominated the lawn near the blue garden was taken down by Lotusland staff and arborist Brett Warner (IN THE TREE, CENTER).

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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
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Whatever its provenance, it graced the lawn for 80 or 90 years and will be sorely missed by anyone who visited Lotusland during its heyday.

Losing large oak trees is nothing new to the Lotusland staff. Wind storms, compromised root systems and fungal decay all play a role in the natural cycle of life for these trees, and there is hardly a year in which one or more of them are not downed. And while replacement trees cannot always be placed in the exact former location of those lost, it is Lotusland's policy to continue planting and preserving this part of the garden's legacy. To that end, another coast live oak will be planted in the lawn to replace the recent loss.

It is not just large trees that grow and decline, although they are so conspicuous in their demise that they often cause more dismay. Many of Lotusland's exotic plants are decades, if not centuries, old. Slow-growing cycads, palms and succulents that form the texture of Lotusland's landscape may have been many years old when planted here. The massive Chilean wine palms planted by R. Kinton Stevens were presumably started from seed, but that was more than 120 years ago. No one knows how long they will live in their adoptive home. Other plants, most notably many of the cycads and cacti that Madame

Walska purchased, were collected in their native habitats and at mature sizes. Some years ago, when a large cactus plant lost some towering limbs, a lichen expert who investigated the growths on those old portions was thrilled to key out a species not native to Southern California at all; testimony to its distant and former life.

These aging plants require careful monitoring and sometimes palliative care. A tree with a fungal infection may live for many years on its own and, with extra vigilance, even longer, as did our beloved oak. This vigilance requires the support of all stakeholders, from dedicated staff and trustees to our occasional visitors and especially our faithful members. Lotusland's commitment to maintaining the garden with sustainable methods actually results in improved health and vigor, even of aging specimens, but the time and resources required to care for 37 intensively landscaped acres are considerable.

As keepers of Madame Walska's vision, it is up to Lotusland's staff not only to nurture the collections she left, but also to plan and prepare for the future. It was her wish that the garden remain an "outstanding center of horticultural significance and of educational use" for many more years. To preserve the look and feel of Madame Walska's garden, staff members are always



Brett Warner (RIGHT) and Esau Ramirez (LEFT), Lotusland's Grounds Supervisor, confirm the extent of rotten wood in the heart of the old oak's trunk.

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.



Once the limbs and trunk were cut up and hauled away, all that remained of our majestic oak were the remnants of the stout trunk.

looking for opportunities to maintain the tree canopy through introduction of young specimens, retain intimate garden spaces through renovation of mature

hedges, reinvigorate mass plantings of everything from cacti to bromeliads to ferns through thinning and soil renovation and myriad other proactive projects.

Help Our Oaks!

*I*T IS THE NATURE of gardens that they require constant maintenance, and the trees in them are no exception. All of our oaks need work, and annual safety pruning, along with necessary structural work, is especially important in public areas.

Recently 12 important oak trees in areas frequented by visitors and staff have been identified as needing critical work. We must remove dead wood, reduce the weight on long horizontal branches and prune to allow more light to the understory to reduce crown competition with adjacent plantings. We have a bid of \$10,000 to complete the necessary work. To help, please contact Director of Development Anne Dewey at andewey@lotusland.org or 805-969-3767, extension 105.

Director's Letter

*A*LL OF US AT Ganna Walska Lotusland welcome the possibilities a fresh year brings, and we look forward to accomplishing the goals we have set for ourselves in 2010. Our sanguine attitude is grounded in the many successes of last year. Even though our earned revenues were adversely impacted by the 2009 recession, we kept our expenses down and met our fundraising goals to finish the year in a better financial position than expected. We completed numerous garden projects, big and small, and all were fully funded. Even as a down-sized staff worked hard to keep the collections healthy and struggled to keep the gardens perfectly groomed, visitors told us that Lotusland has never looked better.

We have several reasons to be excited about 2010. Last year we evaluated the effectiveness of our programs, and we expect to make some improvements in 2010. In particular, the structure of Lotusland's membership program will undergo some changes that will make it easier for you to use your benefits

while improving the impact of your membership support to Lotusland. We also received funding late in 2009 that will enable us to do more garden renovations in 2010.

Six extraordinarily talented, highly motivated Trustees are joining the Board, which is led by new officers Larry Durham, President; Marianne Sprague, Vice-President; Michael Mayfield, Treasurer; and Ian Fisher, Secretary. Under this Board's leadership, we will continue to strive for even greater fiscal strength for Lotusland, even in the face of another uncertain year for the world's economy.

Our greatest opportunity—and challenge—in 2010 and beyond is increasing donor support and growing Lotusland's endowment. Lotusland is one of this community's cultural treasures, and it is one of the world's most unique gardens, with globally significant plant collections. Our capacity to earn the revenues we need to honor this historic garden and sustain these important collections will always be limited, due



RICK CARTER

Gwen Stauffer

to restrictions on the number of visitors and cars allowed. The future of Lotusland is in building the endowment through the support of those who cherish this place and Madame's vision to share it with future generations. I hope you will join us in keeping Lotusland vital and alive by visiting, joining and giving in 2010.

Warmest regards,
Gwen L. Stauffer

NEW TO THE COLLECTIONS

Dianella tasmanica 'Variegata'

VIRGINIA HAYES



The iris-like leaves of this variegated selection *Dianella tasmanica* are edged in white.

WHAT DO YOU PLANT in a long, narrow planting bed bordered on one side by a roadway and on the other by a pedestrian path? This difficult scenario occurs more often than many gardeners would like, and Lotusland has one such area in a very prominent place: right in front of our visitor center. After trying various shrubs and groundcovers, we think we have finally hit on a winner. Basing our choice on our experience with the all-green form of *Dianella tasmanica*, which is fast growing and very durable, we have planted a variegated form that has bold white stripes on its leaves.

Also known commonly as Tasman flax lily, *Dianella* grows in the wetter forests of southern Australia and Tasmania. It forms clumps of strap-shaped leaves to 2 feet in height and spreads by underground rhizomes.

Dianella is in the daylily family, Hemerocallidaceae, but does not have the large, showy flowers typical of that garden favorite. Its tiny blue flowers do, however, produce decorative berries in late summer. Their electric blue color is striking and sure to catch the eye of visitors. The berries have even been used to produce a dye for textiles.

—Virginia Hayes

Charles Glass...In His Own Words

PART IV 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*

GRIFFIN'S [a local tree service that worked for Madame Walska for many years] had tree crews working at Lotusland about half the year. Trimming trees was a never ending job. I soon learned that any new, indoctrinated [sic], outside workers required constant supervision, for one little mistake could disfigure a plant and to Mme. Walska that was an unpardonable crime! A densely landscaped garden such as Lotusland presented an enormous challenge. Branches could not simply be cut and allowed to fall. Each branch had first to be tied up so it would not fall once it was cut, and then it had to be lowered slowly to the ground so as not to damage or destroy some plant below. Often the tree men would have to build

a frame and cover to offer even greater protection to the plants. For instance, to trim two enormous Monterey pines in the aloe garden one time, it took a crew of two to three men four days!

Traditional technique with tree trimming is to trim a tree rather severely so that it would be a fairly long time before the tree needs work again. This was not the way to do things at Lotusland. She would try to explain very sweetly and politely to the tree trimmers that she wanted the trees trimmed just a little bit—for today—not for their appearance next month, and if they needed more trimming next month, fine, they could come back and do it again, but if she looked up at a tree and it looked a bit overly denuded to her

or too large a branch had been removed, leaving too gaping a hole, pity the poor tree man! Her favorite was Eldon, a timid fellow who smoked surreptitiously, a no-no at Lotusland as Mme. Walska considered the smoke bad for the health of the plants, and who was always looking nervously over his shoulder—for Mme. Walska, who usually wore knitted wool booties to keep her feet warm, and which made little noise, was a master at sneaking up behind workers and taking them by surprise. He was never caught removing too much foliage, and she never caught him smoking.

NEXT TIME

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

SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE

Aloe Outing

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16 • 1:30 TO 4:00 PM

ALOES DISPLAY THEIR spectacular blooms when most plants are dormant during the winter months—and when Lotusland is closed for public tours. This opportunity to spend an afternoon in the garden and enjoy more than 170 species and cultivars of aloes during the winter recess is a special privilege for members only. Admission is \$20 or one membership pass. Please call 805.969.9990 or email reservation@lotusland.org to make a reservation.



VIRGINIA HAYES

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Winter Projects

THE GARDEN is in a constant state of flux, and maintenance tasks are ongoing. A recent and an upcoming project are described below.

CACTUS CABLING

DURING OCTOBER 2009 sea surface and subsurface temperatures continued to increase across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, according to an El Niño Advisory issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center. An advisory is issued "when El Niño conditions are observed and expected to continue." Lotusland's gardens and structures were severely damaged during El Niño events of the mid and late 1990s, thus measures have been taken to abate the impact of a very wet season.

In 2003 Lotusland created a cactus garden to showcase the extensive collection received from Merritt "Sigs" Dunlap. Lotusland staff specified horticultural considerations to be incorporated into Eric Nagelmann's landscape vision. The magnificent design and the spectacular plantings continue to elicit rave reviews. Plants have been "jumping out of the ground," as we sometimes say around here, necessitating almost constant maintenance thinning. The cultural specifications, such as raised beds, well-drained soil and the sub-surface drainage system, combined with our ongoing maintenance practices have been successful...almost too successful.

Some large plants staked at the time of their transplant in 2004 have doubled

or even tripled in height and girth. The root system of some plants may not support the tremendous top-growth of plants growing in a saturated, porous soil mix. In November grounds staff installed cables to help stabilize three *Pachycereus pringlei* (Cardon Gigante), one *P. montanus*, one *P. Pecten-arboriginum*, one *P. weberi* and one *Neobuxbaumia macrocephala* for the winter. Although the cables are temporary, you might see the web of wire at the beginning of the 2010 tour season. They do not block pathways and will be removed as soon as weather and soil conditions allow.

HEDGE RENOVATION

THE HEDGES AT LOTUSLAND serve many functions and are an integral part of the design of various garden areas. They provide physical and visual barriers and can be used to create a space and feeling very different from an adjacent garden. The size of the hedge can add drama, and the plant material used complements the garden space and botanical collection. Hedges also provide wildlife habitat.

Pittosporum undulatum and *Syzygium paniculatum* (eugenia) hedges define the parterre area that includes rose beds at the back of the main house. Prior to 1986 these hedges were 14 feet high. I know because I trimmed them from a ladder for a couple of years when I first started working at Lotusland in 1984. The parterre was dramatic, somewhat ominous and so shaded by tall hedges that plants, especially roses, would not grow in the planting beds. The next



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL IVEN

The tallest, heaviest columnar cacti have been cabled to provide additional support during the expected rainy winter.

"hedge man" began a measured process of lowering the tall hedges in order to let in more light and improve the airflow being blocked by the tall hedges. The existing height complements the scale of the parterre and allows for a spectacular display of roses.

This winter a section of hedge bordering the southern side of the roses will undergo a renovation. The lower portion of the existing hedge, a combination of pittosporum and eugenia, will be replaced with *S. paniculatum*. The new plantings will be farther away from the rose bed, allowing more sunlight to reach the roses and creating better symmetry with the upper portion of the hedge.

Although eugenia grows quickly, the parterre hedge renovation will be noticeable throughout the 2010 tour season as the new plantings mature. You will be able to monitor the progress on visits to the garden in 2010. —Michael Iven



The section of hedge to the left of the arch will be replanted to match the short section to the right of the arch.

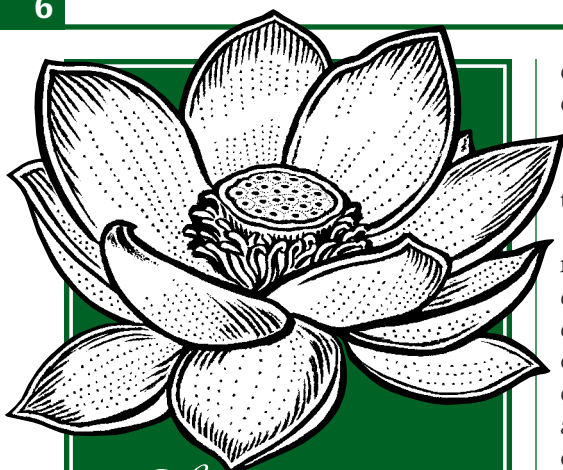
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The LOTUS SOCIETY

PAUL GLENN

PAUL GLENN came to Santa Barbara in the 1970s, drawn by the weather and the golf courses at Birnam Wood and the Valley Club of Montecito. He bought a house on Hot Springs Road to give Santa Barbara a test, which it quickly passed. Nearly a decade after settling in, a friend took Paul to see Lotusland. He was greeted by Madame Walska, but she was near the end of her days and unable to walk with them through the botanical treasure she created. After this visit, Paul understood the vast range of plants that could be grown in Montecito. "My house was too big," Paul says, "and I wanted something with more land." Paul downsized to a ranch-style house, situated on four acres, with large windows facing remnant



Paul Glenn

camellia gardens and the surrounding chaparral of Montecito. While he remembers little about that first visit to Lotusland, he has returned often to this source of his inspiration.

At the very beginning, Paul found a muse in Lynn Woodbury, a local garden designer who became his first and only design advisor while he became Lynn's only long-term client. Together they created a gorgeous, eclectic garden with an astonishing abundance and diversity of plants. "It's like a miniature Lotusland," Paul says. But Paul and Lynn have made this a very personal garden featuring mixed borders of succulents, bromeliads, agaves, aloes, euphorbias, perennials, palms and woody plants that provide exuberant splashes of color and sculptural interest all year. Pots overflowing with specimen plants line walkways and punctuate the beds. Not a space remains unfilled—the walls are hung with stag-horn ferns and the garage roof is adorned with planter boxes. "I don't like to see bare mulch in the garden," Paul asserts. Madame Walska would have agreed.

Paul grew up near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, attended Princeton and Harvard, finally landing on Wall Street where he became an expert in trading futures contracts. "I was in a hurry to make money," he told me, as he explained the potential for leveraging futures while balancing the risks. Now Paul's enthusiasm and energy have shifted to building his gardens.

Another of Paul's long time passions is the Glenn Foundation for Medical Research (glennfoundation.org), which he founded in 1965. The foundation's purpose is to extend the healthy productive years of life through research on the mechanisms of biological aging. Paul mentioned that he is getting older and sometimes forgets things. The fact that he is impacted by the aging process when he set up a foundation to study it and develop ways for people to live longer is an irony that is not lost on him!

When space ran out in the areas surrounding the house, Paul and Lynn decided to extend the garden into adjacent chaparral, saving the long row of California coastal live oaks lining a seasonal streambed, and adding conifers and cycads. Paul explained that Lynn thought a bench was needed, as both a focal point and a place to sit and enjoy

the view. "So, lo and behold, we have a bench," Paul says, quickly adding, "I haven't sat in it yet." I wasn't surprised—the garden extension is a work in progress, and Paul is busy filling it with a multitude of plants that are still in their pots, waiting to be placed into their final positions.

Paul joined *The Lotus Society* in 2006, understanding that he was making an investment in the future of Lotusland, a place that has provided him with unlimited inspiration. He has just gifted \$50,000 to the Lotusland Foundation as a start to our major and vital project of building the Lotusland endowment. We are grateful for Paul's extraordinary and very timely generosity. —Gwen Stauffer



NEW MEMBERS

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

Sallie and Curt Coughlin

Katherine Murray-Morse

The Spivey Family

Marianne and

Norman F. Sprague III, M.D.

Dr. Bud and Lynda Stuart

Members of *The Lotus Society* have each made a gift or bequest of \$10,000 or more to Lotusland's endowment. Names of *Lotus Society* members are engraved on *The Wall of Honor*.

To learn more, please call Director of Development Anne Dewey at 805.969.3767, extension 105.



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

THANK YOU TO SUSANNE AND GARY TOBEY FOR HOSTING The President's Party

LOTUSLAND IS VERY APPRECIATIVE of the support of our wonderful donors, and we like to thank them in a very special way. Each year we honor our Garden Patrons, Benefactors and Sponsors, members of *The Lotus Society*, upper level *Lotusland Celebrates* sponsors and individual major donors at our President's Party. We are grateful to Susanne and Gary Tobey for opening their beautiful Montecito home and garden for this year's event. Susanne is a new member of Lotusland's Board of Trustees and serves on the Development Committee.

The Tobey's charming home, designed by Don Nulty and built by Heimberg Construction, is filled with fascinating works of art. Susanne's marvelous plants, including orchids and cymbidiums, grace the interior. Outside, guests explored the beautiful gardens and pathways created by Susanne with assistance from Sydney Baumgartner, Dan Bifano and Jim Melnick. Guests were treated to stunning ocean views as they enjoyed the sounds of a classical guitarist and delicious wine and hors d'oeuvres. The Tobey's home was the perfect setting to thank our supporters for their generosity to Lotusland. —Anne Dewey



Board President Mason Farrell with our generous hosts, Gary and Susanne Tobey, and Andy Chou. Susanne and Andy are joining the Board of Trustees in 2010.



Susanne Tobey, Patty Jacquemin and Peggy Wiley enjoyed the delectable wine and delicious hors d'oeuvres. Peggy is a new Trustee and Lotus Society Chair.



Laura Lee Wood, Glen Mitchel and Karen Davidson chatted in the beautiful garden at the annual President's Party.



Joanna Kerns and Marc Appleton admired the setting including the stunning view behind them. Marc is a new Trustee.



Executive Gwen Stauffer (CENTER) and Sandra Lynn (RIGHT) looked at the Lotusland album that Laura Lynn (LEFT) created.

Sound Installation Artist Kirsten Reese at Lotusland

MARCH 17 THROUGH 20



COURTESY PHOTOS

The installation is inspired by Lotusland's beauty and does not diminish the visual integrity of the gardens, in this case an abalone shell at the aloe pond.

WE ARE DELIGHTED that Lotusland will be the site of a sound installation by noted artist and 2009 Villa Aurora Fellow Kirsten Reese from March 17 through March 20—and we hope you will plan a visit to the garden during that time. A reception for the artist follows the afternoon tour on March 20.

Villa Aurora, the former home in Pacific Palisades of exiled German-Jewish writer Lion Feuchtwanger, who fled the Nazis and came to Los Angeles in 1942, is now an artists residency sponsored by the German government, where approximately 12 artists from music, the visual arts, literature and film, spend up to three months concentrating on creative work.

During a 2005 visit to Lotusland, Kirsten was inspired to plant sounds throughout its gardens, like audible flowers. While a 2009 Villa Aurora Fellow, she proposed the idea to Lotusland's Director Gwen Stauffer. The challenge, both Gwen and Kirsten concur, is to be faithful to Ganna Walska's conception

of her gardens as a work of art itself. As Robert Harbison puts it in his book *Eccentric Spaces*, "What is missing for most gardeners to make them feel like artists is a sufficiently harebrained plan, an inclusive enough subject for imitation." With Lotusland, Madame Walska found her canvas. Kirsten's installations with sound are conceived to work harmoniously within their environment and do not interfere with the visual integrity of the gardens.

Kirsten's sound installations, such as her *Der Tönende See* (The Singing Sea), impressed Gwen and Lotusland's staff with their aesthetic approach to environmental pieces. By neither subordinating the space to her artwork nor her artwork to the space, Kirsten creates a distinct and individual installation that coexists within the context of the original undisturbed work of art, in this case Madame Walska's gardens.

Beyond the immediate pleasure of following a path from one surreal garden to the next, Kirsten was attracted by their taxonomy—*Aloe*, *Arecaceae*, *Bromeliaceae*, *Cactaceae*, *Cycadopsida*, *Euphorbia*, *Filicopsida*—and how their names are like the wind that whispers through them. It was not lost on Kirsten that Ganna Walska's first artistic aspirations to sing opera may have been an important influence on Madame Walska's own aesthetic instincts and sensibilities while creating her gardens. A visitor to the gardens from March 17 to 20 is also likely to hear—between *Acer palmatum* and *Asclepias curassivica*—strains of arias she was known to have performed.

Kirsten Reese departed from a traditional musical background to pursue her interest in the nature of sound in space and its effect on one's awareness to their environment. Her work has been recognized by the Berliner Senats and, in addition to Villa Aurora, she has been an artist-in-residence at Cité des Arts (Paris). She presently teaches sound art and intermedia composition at the Universität der Künste Berlin.

—Daniel Rothman,
Director of Programs, Aurora Villa

The installation will be part of our regular docent-guided tours or you may choose to walk in the gardens at your own pace. Those visiting on the afternoon of Saturday, March 20 are invited to a reception at 3:15 PM. Kirsten Reese will give a short talk and be available to answer questions. Reservations are required. Please call 805.969.9990 or email reservation@lotusland.org.



Kirsten Reese planted sounds throughout the garden, like audible flowers. A lantern in the Japanese garden is one of many sites.



LARRY JON FRIESEN, SATURDAYS.NET

Morning Bird Walk at Lotusland

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20 • 9:00 AM TO NOON

LOTUSLAND RESEARCH ASSOCIATE Jeff Chemnick and Director Emeritus Steve Timbrook look forward to leading their annual winter bird walk on February 20. The morning tour focuses on seeing as many species as possible. Some former highlights include Golden-crowned Kinglet, Varied Thrush, Wood Duck and even a roosting Barn Owl in a Chilean wine palm. This is a great way for both experienced birders and beginners to seek out avian "tourists" that spend the winter in Santa Barbara. We will have several pairs of binoculars to loan if you don't have your own. The cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. To register, please email reservation@lotusland.org or call 805.969.9990.



Rose Thomas

IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST in art or architecture, chances are you have taken a class from or heard about Rose Thomas. For the past 20 years, Rose has been coordinating art and architecture classes through the Continuing Education program at Santa Barbara City College (SBCC).

Rose grew up in Riverside where the Mission Inn, designed by architect Arthur Benton, is a local landmark. It was Benton's Mission Revival style that inspired Rose's early love of architecture and its history. (Locally, Benton designed All Saints by the Sea in Montecito and the second Arlington Hotel, which came down in the 1925 earthquake.) "The Mission Inn is such an important building to me...romantic and quirky. Its creator and owner, Frank Miller, was the male equivalent of Santa Barbara's Pearl Chase. He got things done in the community."

Rose spent her last two years of college concentrating in studio art and literature in pursuit of a Liberal Studies degree from UC Riverside. She worked as assistant to the curator at the Riverside Art Center, but the pull of a more vibrant and contemporary art scene soon drew her to Los Angeles where she was hired at Newspace Gallery on Melrose.

When her future husband Erick graduated from UCSB, he decided to stay in Santa Barbara, and Rose moved there to be with him. Rose's gallery work in Los Angeles helped to establish her in the local art community. "I love to promote and work with artists."

An Esta Stough garden history class at SBCC brought Rose to Lotusland in the 1980s. Rose recalled following other

students into the house while Stough was conversing with Patricia Tarkowski, Madame Walska's secretary. "I remember seeing all those carousel animals in the sunken drawing room."

After Madame Walska died, Rose volunteered to assist at a two-day auction preview of Madame's estate. The auction included lots of Madame's furniture and belongings. "Some of the people who came to this auction were there in a way to honor Madame. They included former gardeners and maids." Thomas said one of the women who used to work for Madame recalled how Madame had corrected the way she had positioned a teacup on its saucer. "She was very exacting."

Rose began her SBCC Continuing Education teaching in 1987 when she organized visits to artists' studios. "There's nothing more inspiring to me than spending time with an artist." Her training in studio art as well as graduate work in architectural history infuses what Rose has to share with her students.

Architectural historian David Gebhard designed a 1993 exhibit on Lutha Maria Riggs, George Washington Smith's colleague. Rose was asked to develop a complementary course about Riggs, in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Museum of Art exhibit. "I also was asked to coordinate a tour of residences designed by Riggs. That was the beginning of the architectural tours." Since then, Rose has shepherded eager students to visit places such as the Getty,

Schindler House and Gamble House, among other Los Angeles area sites. "I really love the work. Architecture brings history alive for me."

"My love of gardens evolved from my passion for architecture. One of the reasons I initially volunteered in the Lotusland archives was the chance to be in the main house. The more I researched Madame Walska and her life, the more I wanted to know everything about her." Rose currently volunteers in our Garden Shop. "Everyone is so happy when they come through the shop. They often want additional information about the gardens or Madame. Sharing that information is what I most enjoy. It's such a privilege to be here."

In addition to her involvement with Lotusland, Rose serves on the Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara's Board of Directors and has participated in the Pearl Chase Historic Homes tours for the past ten years. If you go to Chaucer's bookstore, you'll find Rose working in the Children's Department. "I love to read and I love to be around children." Rose lives in Santa Barbara with her husband Erick and Whitney, their dog, as well as Sugar and Nibbles, the resident cats. Their son Matt just graduated from UCSB, and son Michael is a student at SBCC carrying on the family interest in art.

We so appreciate having someone with Rose's interest in art, architecture and history greeting and helping our visitors. Thank you, Rose. —Jean Parry

Spring Garden Tour

With VIRGINIA HAYES

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

9:15 AM TO 4:00 PM (GATES OPEN AT 9:00 AM)

VIRGINIA HAYES HAS put together another fun day of touring gardens on Saturday, April 14. Participants will enjoy fine private gardens, good company and a luscious lunch at Lotusland.

The bus will depart Lotusland at 9:15 AM and return by 4:00 PM. Please plan to arrive at 9:00 AM to facilitate this early departure. The fee of \$90 for Lotusland members and \$110 for nonmembers covers transportation, admission and a buffet lunch. Space is very limited, and we will book the tour on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, please email reservation@lotusland.org or call 805.969.9990.

Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2009

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Winter and Spring 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, January 16

Aloe Outing

1:30 TO 4:00 PM

See details on page 4.

Call 805.969.9990 or email
reservation@lotusland.org to register.

Wednesday, February 17

Garden reopens after winter recess.

Saturday, February 20

Morning Bird Walk at Lotusland

9:00 AM TO NOON

See details on page 8.

Call 805.969.9990 or email
reservation@lotusland.org to register.

Wednesday, March 17 through Saturday, March 20

Sound Installation Artist

Kirsten Reese at Lotusland

Reception for the Artist

Saturday, March 20 3:15 PM

See details on page 8.

Call 805.969.9990 or email
reservation@lotusland.org to sign up
for a tour.

Saturday, April 14

Spring Garden Tour

with Virginia Hayes

9:15 AM TO 4:00 PM

See details on page 9.

Call 805.969.9990 or email
reservation@lotusland.org to register.

Tours

Regular Tours and Family Tours are offered at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM, Wednesday through Saturday, between February 15 and November 15.

Family Tours are available for groups with children under age 10 and are child and parent friendly. They are separate from regular adult tours.

Adult members, \$20
or use admission passes;
ages five to 18, \$10;
four and under, free.

Call 805.969.9990 for reservations.