



# LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS ▯ VOLUME 21 NO. 1 ▯ WINTER 2012

## Aloes

BY VIRGINIA HAYES

**A**S LONG-TIME RESIDENTS of southern California know, the main blooming season for aloes is winter. Thousands of fleshy spires are emerging from their green rosettes of leaves and soon the millions of tubular flowers that they support will begin to color and open. These succulent plants occur throughout the continent of Africa as well as the Middle Eastern countries of Oman, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Aloes are also found on Madagascar and several islands in the Indian Ocean. Although they almost never dominate their native landscapes, they are represented in nearly all vegetation types with the exception of the wet tropical forests. Most aloes are frost tender and thrive in moderately warm to hot climate zones. Santa Barbara is a perfect match for their needs. Lotusland's aloe garden is one of the finest displays to be found outside Africa, with more than one-third (over 150 taxa) of the existing aloe species represented in the garden. At least 37 of the accessions are known to be wild-collected plants (it is quite possible that earlier additions to the collection were also wild-collected, but those data have been lost), and another 11 are grown from seed of wild plants now in cultivation.

Aloes have been known to modern botany since the 1600s, yet new discoveries are made each year as interested scientists and even citizen scientists research and describe new species. According to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) Checklist, there are more than 450 species in the genus *Aloe*.

A small proportion of aloes grow as trees or shrubs, such as the gracefully branching *Aloe barberae* (formerly known as *A. bainesii*) that reaches heights of

*Continued on page 2*



PHOTOS BY VIRGINIA HAYES

*This species, Aloe flexilifolia, is known from only one location in the Usambara Mountains of Tanzania where it is listed as Critically Endangered. It has been collected for medicinal and traditional uses.*

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more than 50 feet in the forests along the coastal zone of South Africa and Mozambique or *A. dichotoma* and *A. pillansii*, whose buttressed trunks clothed in fractured and peeling bark march across the arid planes of Namibia and South Africa. Single-stemmed aloes such as *A. ferox* and *A. marlothii* tower over the bush at 10 to 15 feet in South Africa. Shrubby types form multi-stemmed thickets, such as *A. flexilifolia*, which grows on rocky ledges in Tanzania. The spindly stems of *A. kedongensis* grow together into dense thickets in Kenya, and the much-branched *A. cameronii* occurs in Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia. The majority of species, though, form stemless rosettes of succulent leaves in a variety of sizes, some with distinctive spots or stripes to mark them. For example, *A. maculata* (maculate means spotted) forms a rosette of broad leaves that are usually copiously spotted with off-white markings. It is widely distributed through Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland. The light blue-green leaves of *A. striata*, which grows in Namibia and South Africa, are marked by thin, darker-green striations from base to tip. Aloe vera (*A. barbadensis*), well known for its medicinal properties, belongs in this group as well. Smaller aloes creep across the ground, such as *A. distans* from the western cape of South Africa and *A. dorotheaea* in Tanzania. Diminutive grass aloes with less-succulent leaves inhabit the vast grassy velds and are adapted to the frequent fast-moving fires.

It is the aloe flowers, of course, that set them apart in the plant kingdom. They are tubular and are displayed on simple or branched stalks. Hundreds may be crowded together in the larger species or merely a dozen or so in the smallest ones. Colors of individual blossoms range from the palest of oranges through yellows and deep brick red. Many inflorescences display more than one color at once as unopened buds, open flowers and spent ones progress through two or three shades during their lifespans. The stately *Aloe speciosa* carries large unbranched flower spikes of coral pink buds at the apex, shading to palest greenish white at the bottom. Added to the color display are the bright yellow-tipped orange stamens that extend beyond the pale petals of the opening flowers. There may be two color forms within a species. Both yellow and



*The flower stalk of Aloe marlothii is notable for its unique wide-spreading branch structure,*

orange forms of *A. barbadensis* may be found and *A. cryptopoda* plants can be orange-flowering or yellow-flowering or exhibit both colors on the same plant. In the old world where aloes grow, these flowers attract various species of sunbirds through their bright colors and nectar rewards. Unlike their new-world counterparts, the hummingbirds who hover while feeding, these tiny sunbirds perch on the flower stalk to probe the flowers. Many serve as pollinators carrying pollen on their foreheads as they visit plant after plant.

Practitioners of herbal and tribal healing have used extracts of the leaves of aloes for a number of complaints for at least 2,000 years and possibly much longer. Alexander the Great is reputed to have seized the island of Socotra just to ensure ready access to a source of aloes. In South Africa alone, the local aloe tapper's industry is worth 2.5 million rand (over \$400,000) annually. The bitter yellow sap obtained from the layer of cells just below the leaf surface is used to treat stomach complaints and, in general, acts as a laxative. It is the slippery gel from the interior of the succulent leaves, though, that many people associate with aloe's healing gift. This gel was brought to the Western world's attention after World War II when it was used to treat radiation burn victims in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Processed aloe gel is included in skin care products because of its natural moisturizing ability. Claims that it also stimulates the synthesis of collagen and elastin have yet to be clinically proven. It does help to relieve pain and reduce inflammation,

## 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.*



*Aloe pluridens* is common in its native range in the coastal region of eastern South Africa.

so its use as a burn treatment (including sunburn) is valid. The most commonly cultivated species for commercial products is known as aloe vera (*Aloe barbadensis*), although *A. ferox* and *A. africana* are also grown commercially.

Aloes face the same threats that affect biodiversity worldwide: livestock and agricultural activities, mining and hydroelectric projects (and their associated road building), urban expansion, competition from invasive and exotic plants, and harvesting and collecting for medicinal and economic uses (including as ornamentals). When harvested responsibly, aloe species are not greatly endangered, but local populations can be adversely affected. Efforts to conserve aloes have been initiated with mixed success. In 1986, Kenya established aloe plantations after a presidential decree protecting wild populations from the common practice of harvesting leaves for their exudates, yet many plantations were planted, and later re-planted, with wild-collected plants providing little if any relief from the original pressure. Many other African nations have plant conservation plans and protection laws for aloes and other plants, but they go largely unimplemented and unregulated. All aloe species are included on CITES Appendices. Five species are on Appendix

I. (Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.) All others are on Appendix II. (Appendix II includes species that are not necessarily threatened with extinction but for which trade must be controlled to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.) Fortunately, the genus is well represented in ex situ collections with 88% of all aloe taxa in three gardens in South Africa alone (at the Kirstenbosch, Karoo and Pretoria National Botanical Gardens).

The origin of Lotusland's collection of aloes dates back to R. Kinton Stevens's nursery (1885–1896). The aloe garden that exists today was greatly enlarged by Bob Foster and Charles Glass in the mid-1970s. Masses of large and small aloes were placed to generate the drama associated with all of Madame's garden creations. More aloes continue to be added to the collection from a variety of sources as they become available.

Join us for an Aloe Outing on January 21. See page 7 for details.

## Director's Letter

THE END OF THE YEAR triggers a reflection of our accomplishments in the passing year, and the lengthening days marked by the winter solstice inspire fresh plans and new commitments. I am always struck by this transition from "old" to "new" and except for the addition of new Trustees to our board, it rarely seems palpable to me. Maybe that is because Lotusland's board and staff have been considering the long-term future of Ganna Walska Lotusland for many years and have consistently made strategic decisions that advance the gardens and the Lotusland organization every day.

Having said that, 2011 was a year of planning, experimenting and exploration for us, and the strategic plan process that dominated our attention in 2011 is completed. We now are prepared to take Lotusland on a big leap forward in the next five years. The plan is very ambitious and while it may seem daunting, we have already begun implementing many of these strategies. I would like to share a few of those with you.

Our experimentation in temporary exhibits, both indoors and in the gardens, evolved into a commitment to an exhibits

program of art and objects that complement Lotusland and enhance our mission. You won't want to miss our first-ever exhibit of dozens of items from Madame Ganna Walska's vast treasure trove of objects and memorabilia we hold in Lotusland's archives.

You will also want to mark your calendars for our first-ever plant sale and auction on September 8, 2012. This is an event for plant connoisseurs and honors Madame's legacy of seeking out the most rare and unusual plants.

While we hope you enjoy the many new programs we have in store for you, we are working behind the scenes on many other strategic plan initiatives to guarantee that Lotusland is safeguarded for generations to come. Lotusland will be 130 years old in 2012, and the preservation of the gardens is of utmost priority. Our Horticulture Committee is developing plans to restore, preserve and improve every garden at Lotusland. Our Facilities Committee is conducting a full assessment of every structure at Lotusland to determine the methods for restoring and preserving the historically significant buildings designed by George Washington Smith and Reginald Johnson.



RICK CARTER

Gwen Stauffer

We are ready to begin many of these restoration projects, but our only obstacle, not surprisingly, comes down to dollars and cents, and that leads to one of the most urgent strategic plan initiatives of all—finding the resources to preserve Lotusland in perpetuity.

When the Board of Trustees adopted the new strategic plan, they also adopted a new vision: "We aspire to be renowned globally and treasured locally." We hope you continue to be inspired by Lotusland and will join with us in enjoying and sustaining the riches that lie within these pink walls.

Warm regards,  
Gwen L. Stauffer

## COLLECTIONS NEWS

## Ferns

THE HARDY FERN FOUNDATION (HFF) was established to introduce and test the world's temperate ferns for hardiness and ornamental value and to build comprehensive collections for public display, information and education.

The primary study garden is at the

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington. HFF is affiliated with research plantings and displays at a number of other botanical gardens, arboreta and related public institutions throughout North America, including Lotusland. As a member of

their Satellite Garden Program, Lotusland receives a shipment of ferns each fall to trial in the garden. There is no cost to participating gardens other than covering the shipping fees. A simple report on their success (or failure) is submitted annually to add to the knowledge base about the cultivation of ferns that the HFF is building.

Seventeen new species or cultivars of ferns have been added to the collection since 2008. These include two species of *Adiantum* (maidenhair fern), two species of *Arachniodes* (East Indian holly fern), seven species of *Dryopteris* (wood fern or buckler fern), a crested form of *Osmunda regalis* (royal fern), a hybrid between an Australian and an American species of *Polystichum* (shield fern), a fuzzy-leaved *Pyrrosia shearerii* (felt fern or tongue fern) and a *Woodwardia unigemmata* (chain fern). The most recent additions have been potted up in the nursery, while those from previous years are now enhancing the fern garden.

—Virginia Hayes

PHOTOS BY VIRGINIA HAYES



*Arachniodes miqueliana*



*Dryopteris koidzumiana*

While still young, these two ferns are taking hold in the fern garden. Note the deep bronze color on the new foliage of the *Dryopteris*.

## Chelsea Flower Show and English Gardens

MAY 19 TO 26

IN CONJUNCTION WITH Travel Unlimited, Ganna Walska Lotusland is pleased to offer its members a seven-day trip to view the Chelsea Flower Show, produced by the Royal Horticultural Society. Held for five days in Chelsea, London, it is the most famous flower show in the United Kingdom and perhaps the world. The show features a wide variety of garden styles including avant-garde, artisan, urban and vegetable gardens. Join Travel Unlimited as they guide you through the historic and lavish gardens and estates of the flower show. You'll also enjoy sightseeing, dining and lodging in first-class accommodations in the great cities of London and Brighton.

Tour package includes round-trip airfare from New York (JFK); first-class accommodations for 6 evenings; daily full breakfast and 3 dinners (including gratuities); admissions to the Chelsea

Flower Show, Sissinghurst Gardens and Castle, Wakehurst Place, Hever Castle and The Gardens at Wisley; afternoon tea at a private estate overlooking its magnificent gardens; additional sightseeing excursions; the services of professional tour escorts; baggage handling and transfers in England.

The Royal Horticultural Society, founded in 1804, is the UK's leading gardening charity, dedicated to advancing horticulture and promoting gardening worldwide. RHS's goal is to share its passion for gardening, plant education and plant sciences.

Price is \$3,099/double occupancy; \$675 single supplement. Initial deposit is \$300; final deposit is due on March 11, 2012. Travel insurance is available for purchase at additional cost. Package price includes sales taxes.

To book your ticket or to receive more information, call Travel Unlimited

directly at 800.645.6969. Lotusland members receive a free \$50 American Express Gift Card when booking with Travel Unlimited for this trip. Simply tell the booking agent that you are a Lotusland member.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show is the most famous flower show in the United Kingdom and perhaps the world.

## Ganna Walska: Collections and Keepsakes

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 THROUGH SATURDAY, APRIL 21

**L**OTUSLAND KICKS OFF the 2012 tour season with a fascinating exhibit, *Ganna Walska: Collections and Keepsakes*. This eclectic mix—most of which has never before been seen by the public—features some of Madame Walska's personal possessions ranging from correspondence and photographs of famous friends to clothing, accessories and keepsakes. On display in the Pavilion, Madame Walska's private residence, the exhibit reveals the personality of this remarkable woman in an intimate setting.

Members may view the exhibit at no charge when scheduling a self-guided tour or docent-guided tour. The cost for nonmembers is adults, \$35; ages 5 through 18, \$10; 4 years and under, free. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 805.969.9990 or by emailing [reservation@lotusland.org](mailto:reservation@lotusland.org).



The exhibit will feature an eclectic mix of Madame Walska's personal possessions.

BILL DEWEY

## Fabulous from Head to Toe: Madame Walska's Hats and Shoes at LACMA

WITH KAYE SPILKER,  
CURATOR OF COSTUME AND TEXTILES  
AT THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART  
SATURDAY, MARCH 24 • 2:00 PM



LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

**I**N CONJUNCTION WITH the *Ganna Walska: Collections and Keepsakes* exhibit, Kaye Spilker will present an illustrated lecture about the extensive collection of fabulous hats and shoes that belonged to Madame Walska and are now owned by LACMA.

The lecture will be followed by a reception.

Admission, which includes entry to *Ganna Walska: Collections and Keepsakes*, is \$45 for Lotusland members and \$55 for nonmembers. To register, please call 805.969.9990 or send an email to [reservation@lotusland.org](mailto:reservation@lotusland.org).

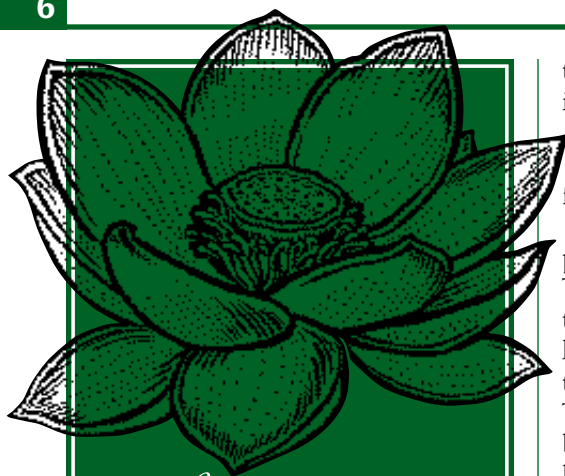
## SAVE THE DATE

## Plant Sale and Auction SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8

We are busy planning a fabulous plant sale and auction (both silent and live) for garden connoisseurs featuring choice, rare and hard-to-find plants.

Renowned plant experts and garden designers will be on hand, sharing tips on plant culture and garden design.

Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served.



## The LOTUS SOCIETY

### LYNDA AND BUD STUART

A CONVERSATION WITH Bud and Lynda Stuart is always a pleasure, but for me it is also an opportunity to reminisce about the northern Virginia countryside where both the Stuarts and I previously lived. Bud was first charmed by the beauty of Virginia on trips home to Cold Spring, New York, from the Arnold Air Force Base in Tennessee. With a degree in Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine from Cornell College, Bud decided to settle in Virginia, and established the Little River Veterinary Clinic in Fairfax, Virginia, specializing in small animal medicine.

When Lynda walked into Bud's clinic seeking care for her dog, she took an immediate liking to Bud and wanted

to see more of him. She started bringing in shelter dogs to have a reason to visit the clinic as often as possible and also visit Bud. Unbeknown to her, Bud had fallen in love with her at first sight!

Lynda became Bud's wife, business partner, companion, and ranch hand. Together they ran the clinic, and with their shared love of Virginia's natural landscape and shared passion for horses, they built—literally—a 35-acre farm in The Plains, Virginia. "We were always busy building fences, tending at least four horses, growing gardens, plus running the clinic—our days were very full and there was no time for television!" Bud and Lynda also became very involved in steeplechasing and foxhunting.

While building their farm, Bud developed a deep interest in plants and "anything that grows." He built flower and vegetable gardens, and planted an extensive orchard. "Bud's gardens were amazing," Lynda says, and Bud modestly admits, "running the big Troy-Bilt rototiller back and forth was relaxing."

Eventually Bud and Lynda entrusted the clinic to their skilled and dedicated staff so they could travel the world. "We were frequent flyer members of PanAm, and we visited places all over the world," Bud tells me. Their home in Santa Barbara is filled with decorative art they collected during their travels abroad, set among abundant paintings and photographs from their life in Virginia. One very special "object" in their home is their Yorkshire Terrier, collected by Lynda while she accompanied Bud to Las Vegas for a veterinary conference. Lynda met the breeder at the Bellagio and selected one sweet pup to take home. Pondering a name for the new pup, Bud suggested "Trinket," urging that everyone should take a trinket home when traveling.

Bud and Lynda's travels eventually led them to seek warmer climates, which drew them to California. They covered the entire state, eventually stopping in Santa Barbara to enjoy The Biltmore's Sunday brunch. They liked Santa Barbara and decided to spend a week the following winter. It didn't take long for them to decide this is where they wanted to retire. In 1997 they sold the farm and moved to Santa Barbara. Bud is still involved with veterinary medicine and doing relief work and just published a pet-owner's guide to proper pet nutrition, *Feeding Fido, and Fluffy, too*.

While they still travel, they also take time to enjoy all that Santa Barbara has to offer. Lynda told me they had heard about Lotusland when they moved here in 1997 and decided to become members so they could get a reservation more easily. They have been enjoying the gardens regularly ever since. Lynda told me the lemon arbor is her favorite feature, but mostly she loves just walking around at different times of the year to see what the plants are doing. Bud told me he really loves coming to the events and seeing the Lotusland members and staff.

They have come to love Lotusland so much that they decided to support the gardens through *The Lotus Society*. "I want to be in touch with all things that come from the earth," Bud says, "and we just love Lotusland." —Gwen Stauffer



### NEW MEMBERS

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

Penny Ridgeway  
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.



Lynda and Bud Stuart

COURTESY PHOTO



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

RICK CARTER

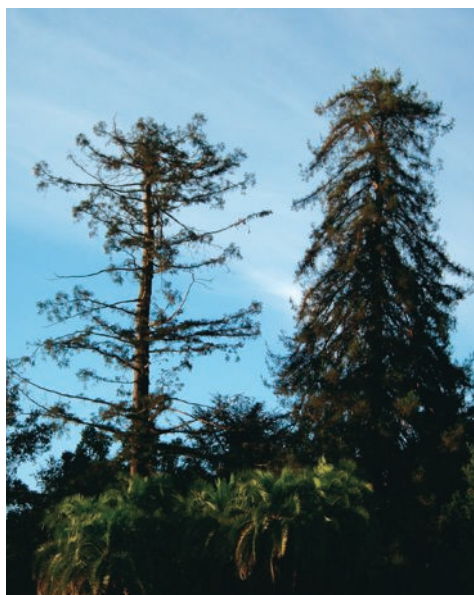
## HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

## Two Stately Trees Removed

THE GARDEN is in a constant state of flux, and maintenance tasks are ongoing. Two recent projects are described below.

## REDWOOD

ONE OF TWO 80-foot-tall and 80-year-old *Sequoia sempervirens* (coast redwood) that stood side by side just off the main lawn near the bromeliad garden was removed in November. The appearance of the tree declined over many years and failed to respond to any cultural attempts to revive it. The tree had shed dead branches and lost more than 80% of its foliage and was becoming increasingly hazardous to climb.



The two redwoods in November 2011.

Following the skilled and precise removal of the tree by Mark Crane's Tree and Arborist Service, Guner Tautrim of Seaborn Designs set up a milling process on-site that yielded 63 three-inch-thick planks. Two of the planks are more than 20 feet long. An approximate total of 120 board feet of beautiful redwood was salvaged and will be dried under cover at Lotusland for the next couple of years while possible redwood projects are considered.

## EUCALYPTUS

IN DECEMBER, the 75-foot-tall *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (river red gum) at the Ashley Road entrance was removed. Lotusland horticultural staff's concerns about the health of the tree and its potential for failure were affirmed by a certified arborist's assessment report. The tree was infected with a fungus that had caused decay spreading along the whole side of the root system. As they were tension roots and responsible for an important function in anchoring the tree, it was recommended that we remove it as soon as possible.

You will notice a big difference the next time you drive by or enter Lotusland through the Ashley Road entrance. For the time being, the area will be mulched and kept neat while landscaping and traffic-flow improvement plans are considered.

—Michael Iven



*E. camaldulensis* at Ashley Road staff entrance.



Newest members of Lotusland's grounds staff and their areas of responsibility are (L to R) Jason Bonham, fern garden; Javier Lopez, special projects including tree work and irrigation systems; Miguel Obregon-Padilla, roses, parterre and topiary garden; and Jorge Torrez, cactus and epiphyllum gardens.



VIRGINIA HAYES

## Aloe Outing

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21  
1:00 TO 3:30 PM

BLOOMING WHEN MOST plants are dormant, aloes display their colorful inflorescences during the winter months, providing a striking contrast to the gray days of the season. Spend an afternoon strolling in the gardens and enjoy more than 170 species and cultivars of aloes.

We invite you to take home a sample of an aloe-based skin care product from EVOO, featured in our Garden Shop especially for this occasion.

This opportunity to visit Lotusland during our off season, when Lotusland is closed for public tours, is a special privilege for our members and their guests only.

Admission is \$25 each for members and \$35 for nonmembers.

For more information or to make reservations, please call 805.969.9990.



Say Dempsay

## Volunteer Profile: Say Dempsay

at the University of Arizona in Tucson. "After I graduated, I had a job doing studio photography for catalogues. My boss sent me to Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara in 1991 for an eight-week program. That would be the first of several times I lived here! But I returned for the last time in 1999."

Say initially heard about Lotusland from a friend, and his description of the garden left her intrigued. "It sounded awesome." So when Say saw a flyer about docent training at Ace Hardware, she decided to attend the reception and tour at Lotusland and immediately enrolled in Docent Training." That was 10 years ago. Not only does Say conduct adult tours, she also has been very involved as a tour facilitator and a mentor for Docent Training and with our Fourth Grade Outreach Program. "Honestly, I wouldn't have stayed this long if it weren't for the kids' tours. I guess at heart I'm an educator. These kids are the next generation. I feel it's important to share Lotusland's information about sustainability, composting and the importance of plants."

Say has taught photography and Photoshop at Santa Barbara City

College for ten years. "Coursework is now all digital, and the students are taught mostly online. It really is a one-to-one experience whereas in the actual classroom, it's one teacher with many students. I enjoy teaching because of the students." She also works with the Art Institute of Pittsburgh teaching Lightroom, a software program for helping to organize files. "I have one deaf student so it gives me ideas about how I might adapt my SBCC photo class should I have another deaf student sign up for a class." Another client, W.W. Norton, employs Say to create interactive graphics for their textbooks.

In addition to her teaching positions, Say is an estate manager in Hope Ranch and still manages to find time to conduct Lotusland tours. "Just being at Lotusland and meeting new people are what keep me returning as a volunteer."

Say and her husband A.J., who also has been a Lotusland volunteer, are both great ambassadors for Lotusland. We look forward to keeping Say's attention so she can continue to share her enthusiasm with many more visitors.

Thank you for making Lotusland one of your priorities, Say! —Jean Parry

## Morning Bird Walk at Lotusland

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28 • 9:00 AM TO NOON

JOIN LOTUSLAND RESEARCH Associate Jeff Chemnick and Director Emeritus Steve Timbrook as they lead their annual winter bird walk. The morning walk focuses on seeing as many species as possible and 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 lend if you don't have your own. The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for nonmembers. To register, please call 805.969.9990 or email [reservation@lotusland.org](mailto:reservation@lotusland.org).



LARRY JON FRIESEN, SATURDAYS.NET

## Behind-the-Scenes Tour

WITH CURATOR VIRGINIA HAYES  
MARCH 10 • 2:30 PM

TAKE A STROLL with Curator Virginia Hayes to see these hidden features and more:

- The wellhead inside Lotusland's George Washington Smith-designed pump house
- The nursery and propagation areas
- Our acclaimed composting and compost tea brewing operation

Free for Lotus Keeper members (\$500 and above); \$35 for general members. Reservations are required. To register, please call 805.969.9990 or email [reservation@lotusland.org](mailto:reservation@lotusland.org).

# Charles Glass...In His Own Words

PART X 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*

**S**HE ASKED ME to find someone to live in what Mme. Walska referred to as the Gardener's Cottage by the gate to Ashley Road, partly because she felt this necessary to her security, as she lived entirely alone except for her one full-time servant-cook and maid—who slept on the premises in a tiny bedroom in the servant's quarters next to the kitchen. Mme. Walska lived in a separate wing next to the main house and separated by an open but walled patio. The estate was a constant attraction to everyone from hippies and flower-children to college students at near-by Westmont to nearly every youngster growing up in Santa Barbara or Montecito and looking for a bit of excitement or romantic privacy, especially on full moonlit nights. Many of these nightly visitors wanted merely to see and appreciate these fabled gardens, but a large percentage unfortunately indulged in vandalism.

We were lucky that we had very few knowledgeable plant thieves. When plants were taken they were usually the more expendable ones. Mme. Walska had bronze animal ornaments on each

of the spigots around the estate, which was a very nice touch and made these necessary but otherwise homely faucets more interesting and attractive. These were constantly being stolen. One night we lost 6 of these bronze faucet handles! Another night we lost 9 more! Another night we lost 25 hoses...in one night! After this I tried to make sure the gardeners locked away all their tools and hoses each night.

In the middle of this rather formal garden area [topiary garden] there was a great giant floral clock. Our nightly visitors would keep trying to ride the hands of the great clock as if it were a merry-go-round, and thus repeatedly stripped the gears. Finally she stopped having the clockwork repaired and just left it set on an appropriate hour for tours.

One time a flower-child plucked a Camellia blossom in the Japanese Garden and placed it in the lap of a statue of Buddha. Mme. Walska noticed the flower during her daily rounds and was so enchanted by this touch that she instructed Mr. (Frank) Fuji to place a flower in this spot every day, an act which he faithfully performed daily

for at least the rest of her life. But the evidence of most of the nightly visitors only gave Mme. Walska concern for her safety. I suggested raising the wall around the estate, but she rejected that idea, claiming that it would make her feel as if she were in a prison. So I suggested a chain-link fence around the estate, inside the existing wall. This suggestion she rejected on the grounds that chain-link fences are too ugly. Then I finally came up with the idea of a black chain-link fence as being less visible and therefore less offensive. This she bought and the first 1,250 ft. the Escobar Fence company put up along Ashley Road cost \$6,425; they sent me the bill by accident! While the fencing, when it was completed, helped slow down the stream of visitors, it failed to stop the more adventuresome ones who simply considered it a challenge and climbed over it, under it, or simply cut through it!

## NEXT TIME

MORE STORIES FROM the Glass memoir.

—Excerpts edited by Virginia Hayes

## Thank You to Our

### GARDEN STEWARDS

Ms. Christina Djernaes & Mr. Norm Waitt  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Durham  
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick W. Gluck  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian J. Kelly  
Mercedes Millington & Jack Mithun

### GARDEN GUARDIANS

Mrs. John S. Broome  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Friedel  
Ms. Cyndee Howard  
Mr. & Mrs. John K. Percy  
Mrs. Andy Pearson  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Simmons  
Ms. Beverly Smaniotto  
Ms. Jeanne C. Thayer  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Tobey

## Help Make Lotusland's Wishes Come True

**W**E NEED PLANTS AND POTS! To donate funds for any of these items, please call Anne Dewey, Lotusland's Director of Development, at 805.969.3767, extension 105 or email her at [andewey@lotusland.org](mailto:andewey@lotusland.org). Thank you!

### 🌿 INSECTARY PLANTS

These plants attract beneficial insects that are a key component of Lotusland's sustainable horticulture program.

A one-year supply is \$500

### 🌸 RHODODENDRONS AND AZALEAS

It's time to refurbish the Japanese garden with 20 rhododendrons and azaleas. \$500

### 🪴 TERRA COTTA POTS

Four decorative terra cotta pots for the water garden. \$500 each

# Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

## SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2011

### 2011 GIFTS FOR THE GARDEN

#### CARE OF THE GARDEN FUND

Mr. & Mrs. Denny Crimmins  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank M. Fujii  
for care of the Japanese garden  
Mike Iven & Bertie Bloom  
in memory of Tani Ramos & Louise Thielst  
Mr. & Mrs. Phil R. Jackson  
Leatrice Luria  
Ms. Claudia Taden in memory of Louise Thielst

#### EDUCATION FUND

Ms. Mary Lou Ardohain  
Erin Taylor, Botanik in memory of Frank Brezden  
Dr. Trisha Price, Cold Spring School  
Mrs. Betty McDermott  
in memory of Lt. Col. Ross Fobair, USAF MIA

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in memory of Elizabeth de Forest  
Mr. Rod Beattie  
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John & Allegra Bessolo  
Daniel Bifano & Allan Brostrom  
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Mr. & Mrs. Brett Caine  
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Mrs. Mary Compton  
in memory of Vera Mae Potter  
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Dr. Jay B. Fortman & Dr. Jennifer Fortman  
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Jim & Christine Gaskin  
Ms. Inge Gatz  
Paul & Marianne Gertman  
Ernest & Judy Getto  
Bruce & Kelley Giffin  
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Carolyn Hanst in memory of Dale E. Hanst  
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Mr. Corey Welles  
Jennifer Wilbanks & Barry Polley

#### PLANT ACQUISITION FUND

Connie Frank & Evan Thompson  
Ms. Patricia Jacquemin  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard J. Pearson

#### LOTUS SOCIETY

The Estate of David F. Myrick  
Penny Ridgeway  
Anonymous

#### DREAMS OF A DIVA

#### PATRON

Cabana Home

#### 4TH GRADE OUTREACH PROGRAM

Andy & Lynn Chou  
Murray & Irina Kerdman

#### GRANTS

Kind World Foundation  
Mericos Foundation  
Montecito Bank & Trust Community Dividends  
The Samuel & Margaret Mosher Foundation  
as directed by Bruce & Natalie McFadden

The Towbes Foundation  
Venoco Community Partnership

#### SPONSORSHIP OF MUSIC AT LOTUSLAND

Rich & Luci Janssen

#### SPONSORSHIP OF VIRGINIA HAYES TO ATTEND THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYCAD BIOLOGY

Mr. Paul F. Glenn  
Dr. & Mrs. Philip Wyatt

#### IN HONOR OF KAREN KOLB'S BIRTHDAY

Thad & Laurie MacMillan

#### IN HONOR OF PEGGY WILEY AND WILSON QUARRÉ'S BIRTHDAYS

Ken Clements & Elsbeth Kleen

#### GENERAL DONATIONS

Mr. Kurt R. Anker  
Daniel Bifano in appreciation  
of the tour for the American Rose Society  
C. Keith Birkenfeld Charitable Trust Fund  
Michael & Diane Herriott in appreciation of a tour  
with Trustee Chapin Nolen  
Mr. Warren Duke McPherson  
Mr. & Mrs. John K. Pearcy  
Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Ryan  
in appreciation of a tour in May  
Roy Spicer  
in appreciation of docent Chantal Evrard  
Ms. Debra Stoller  
Mr. Jules M. Zimmer in appreciation of a tour  
Nick & Kathy Zwick in appreciation of a tour

#### GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Miss Ernai Alexander & Miss Valerie Alexander  
Bonnie Kelm & Bill Malis  
Kathleen Lanford  
Mr. Greayer Mansfield-Jones, Jr.  
Ms. Sylvia Miller  
Mercedes Millington & Jack Mithun  
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Ms. Ann Scales & Mr. Hugh Spitzer  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Scollin  
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Tom Benham  
Larry Disharoon

#### PLANT DONATIONS

Ruth Caldwell

#### IN MEMORY OF ANN CECILIA ANITA FRANKS

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#### IN MEMORY OF JUDY SCHWOCHO

Steve & Laurel Sheffield & Family

#### IN MEMORY OF LOUISE THIELST

Lillian Ball  
Ashide Bergner  
Agnes Kipple  
Gerda Roth  
Mary Zinn

# Renewing Lotus Keeper Members

## SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2011

### GARDEN STEWARD

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Durham

### GARDEN GUARDIAN

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Tobey

### GARDEN CONSERVATOR

Bonnie Kelm & Bill Malis

Mr. & Mrs. Chapin Nolen

### GARDEN CULTIVATOR

Mr. William Burke & Ms. NancyBell Coe

Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Crane

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Langhorne

Gretchen & Jack Norqual

Frank & Deborah Wilson

### GARDEN ADVOCATE

A.E. Amorteguy, M.D. & Antoinette Amorteguy

Dr. Tanya Atwater

Daniel Bifano & Allan Brostrom

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bollay

Mr. & Mrs. Curt Coughlin

John & Christie Glanville

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Hammett

Margaret & Barry Kemp

Bernard & Rosemary Parent

Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Woolley

## Lotusland Members

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2011

### LOTUS KEEPERS

#### GARDEN STEWARD

Christina Djernaes & Norm Waitt

#### GARDEN CULTIVATOR

Ms. Susan Sweetland Grimes

#### GARDEN ADVOCATE

Kenneth & Elizabeth Doran

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

#### FRIEND

Mrs. Tipper Gore

#### FAMILY

Miss Ernai Alexander & Miss Valerie Alexander

Mr. Adam Allaniz & Ms. Katharina Hetwer

Mr. Robert Bard

Mr. Peter Becker & Ms. Julie Nakagama

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Cerin

Ralph & Ellen Chase

Ms. Lisa Chouinard & Ms. Maggie Haumann

Gina Comin & Nathan Lane

David & Jeanne Dentzel

Mrs. Suzanne Dipp & Ms. Theresea Alexander

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Marilyn Kay & Ken Hoevel

Andrew & Margaret Hyde

Ms. Claire Johnson & Mr. Ronald Rice

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Mrs. Margery Wheaton

Ms. Elizabeth White

Mr. Jules M. Zimmer

Dale Zurawski

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### SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2011

### LOTUS KEEPERS

#### GARDEN GUARDIAN

Mrs. John S. Broome

#### GARDEN CONSERVATOR

Mrs. Anitra P. Sheen

#### GARDEN ADVOCATE

Dr. & Mrs. Richard L. Kahler

Mr. & Mrs. Christian Riparetti-Stepien

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

#### FRIEND

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Mrs. Tisha Weber Ford

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Foster

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Jeffrey & Marilyn Harding

Mrs. E. Walton Hedges

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Mr. & Mrs. Stephen T. B. Miller

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Ms. Nancy Parker & Mr. Erich Stull

Ms. Sandra Russell & Mr. Jim Foster

Nita & Henk Van der Werff

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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Roes

Sheldon & Alice Sanov

Ron & Mary Jane Steele

Ms. Rosalyn Zakheim & Mr. Gayle Dukelow

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Zappala

Our Membership Manager, Bambi Leonard, makes every effort to ensure that donor information is correct.

If you find an error or omission, please contact her at 805.969.3767, ext. 120 or [bleonard@lotusland.org](mailto:bleonard@lotusland.org).



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## Winter and Spring 2012 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 21

#### *Aloe Outing*

1:00 TO 3:30 PM

See details on page 7. To register,  
please call 805.969.9990 or email  
[reservation@lotusland.org](mailto:reservation@lotusland.org).

### Saturday, January 28

#### *Morning Bird Walk at Lotusland*

9:00 AM TO NOON

See details on page 8. To register,  
please call 805.969.9990 or email  
[reservation@lotusland.org](mailto:reservation@lotusland.org).

### Wednesday, February 15

Garden reopens after winter recess.

### Saturday, February 25 to Saturday, April 21

#### *Ganna Walska:*

#### *Collections and Keepsakes*

See details on page 5.

### Saturday, March 10

#### *Behind-the-Scenes Tour*

*with Curator Virginia Hayes*

2:30 PM

See details on page 8. To register,  
please call 805.969.9990 or email  
[reservation@lotusland.org](mailto:reservation@lotusland.org).

### Saturday, March 24

#### *Fabulous from Head to Toe: Madame Walska's Hats and Shoes at LACMA*

*with Kaye Spilker, curator of costume  
and textiles at the Los Angeles County  
Museum of Art*

2:00 PM

See details on page 5. To register,  
please call 805.969.9990 or email  
[reservation@lotusland.org](mailto:reservation@lotusland.org).

*Save Saturday, April 14 for Curator  
Virginia Hayes' Spring Garden Tour.  
Details will be in the Spring Newsletter  
for Members.*

### Tours

Tours are offered at 10:00 AM and  
1:30 PM, Wednesday through Saturday  
between February 15 and November  
15. Family Tours, available for groups  
with children under age 10, are child  
and parent friendly. They are separate  
from regular adult tours. Please call  
805.969.9990 for reservations.

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### Did You Know...

Lotusland sends a monthly  
e-bulletin to remind our members  
about events and garden news?

If you are not receiving the  
e-bulletin and would like to,  
please give us your email address  
by calling Member Services  
at 805.969.3767 or emailing  
[bleonard@lotusland.org](mailto:bleonard@lotusland.org).

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