



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS ■ VOLUME 22 NO. 4 ■ FALL 2013

Topiary Endowment

BY GWEN STAUFFER AND VIRGINIA HAYES

THE ART OF TOPIARY, believed to originate in ancient Rome and popularized throughout the gardens of Europe, came into favor again during the turn of the 20th century and the start of the Golden Era of estate building in the United States. At the same time, the first floral clock was constructed in Edinburgh, Scotland. The original topiary garden at Lotusland was created by Ralph Stevens and Madame Ganna Walska from 1955 through 1957, starting with a working clock designed by Stevens. Ganna Walska researched floral clocks before asking Stevens to design the clock for her. At the time, Lotusland's horticultural clock, measuring 25 feet in diameter, was the largest in the world. The clockworks were custom made by AdVance Time in St. Louis, Missouri. Originally, the clock had roman numerals for the hours, but true to Ganna Walska's penchant for constant improvements, she later replaced the roman numerals with a larger circle of signs of the Zodiac. These were made of copper by Gunnar Thielst, Madame's former head gardener and a master craftsman. The hands of the clock were planted with cacti and the face was planted with concentric circles of other succulents. Eventually, the plants were removed and replaced with colored stones, since the weight of the soil and plants in the hands caused the clock to frequently malfunction.

Ganna Walska surrounded the clock with numerous completed topiaries clipped as fanciful animals and geometric forms. She acquired them from Osaki Plant Zoo in Los Angeles, where Mr. Osaki often started his topiaries with already large plants that he then shaped even further. This resulted in topiary animals with great individuality such as an alligator balanced on its tail, a

large-beaked bird unlike anything seen in nature, a dancing pig as well as a flock of assorted birds, ducks and geese, all of which made up Lotusland's original collection.

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 topiary frames were somewhat flimsy, so over the years the original topiary lost their shapes as the frames collapsed and the aging plants declined or died, and all were finally removed by 1995. The clock had also stopped working, and although its motor was replaced in 1990, the face of the clock had been vandalized and damaged with time.

In late 1997, a \$25,000 grant from the Towbes Foundation made possible the renovation of the clock. Lori Ann David, local garden designer and a Lotusland docent, researched early clock

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BILL DEWEY

The renovated clock and topiary garden as seen from the air on May 25, 2013. Once again, Madame Walska's animal circus charms visitors to Lotusland.

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The LOTUSLAND
NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS
is published by
Ganna Walska Lotusland
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

We preserve and enhance the unique, historic estate of Madame Ganna Walska, care for and improve its collections, and develop its conservation and horticulture programs, so they educate us, inspire us, and advance our understanding and appreciation of the importance of plants in our lives and in the life of the planet.

Continued from page 1

designs by Ganna Walska and proposed several alternate renovations. Lotusland staff modified one of the versions with plantings of succulents on the face of the clock to replicate Ralph Stevens' original planting concept. Now, three species of low-growing succulents thrive in the 12 wedge-shaped sectors of the clock face, alternated with colored stones at the center. Recreations of the original zodiac symbols were crafted by Sam Demachki of Ironwood Designs to complete the clock restoration.

Recognizing the importance of the topiary garden to Lotusland's history, as well as the history of topiary gardens in American estates, Lotusland's Board became determined to restore it. In 1999, Board President Carol Valentine allowed the Topiary Garden Restoration Campaign to be conducted in her honor. Jeanne Thayer and Arthur Gaudi chaired the campaign, which lasted for just six months from January to June of 2000. The campaign goal of \$350,000 was needed to fund the cost of designing, rebuilding and planting Ganna Walska's once magnificent topiary garden and to provide some additional funds to care for the garden for a few years until it became established. The committee raised a total of \$657,000 from 234 generous donors—\$307,000 more than the campaign goal! The success of the campaign was undeniably attributed to Carol Valentine, and her many friends and supporters who made generous gifts to the campaign were



LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

By the 1980s, the topiary had lost their original shapes and personality; many had died and eventually all were removed.

honored at *Lotusland Celebrates* in 2000 and at the topiary garden dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony in May 2001. Because of the additional support, a restricted fund was set up and used to fund ongoing maintenance in the garden for more years than originally planned.

Lori Ann David was hired again to research the shapes of Madame Walska's original topiary and construct welded steel frames to replicate most of them. The new topiary forms are planted in amended beds as opposed to directly into the lawn as they were in Madame's day. Once again a mythical hippocampus (half horse-half sea monster) gallops in place, chess pieces are forever locked on their squares and the peacock struts his stuff among many other creatures and architectural shapes. In addition to the fanciful animals, an assortment of geometric shapes—spirals, cones and globes—were added. These beds are edged with the same kind of low *Eugenia* hedge that frames the other beds of the parterre to the west. The parterre's brick walkway was also extended to encircle the clock and continue to the restored marble fountain where a low boxwood maze flanks the path. A marble ball inscribed with donor names was placed on the historic column at the south entrance of the topiary garden.

Specialized maintenance is required in this garden, beyond that of many of the other gardens at Lotusland. First, the topiaries require very specific pruning techniques that not only create and retain the intended shape of the topiary, but also ensure that the tightly clipped plants remain in good health while



LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

Landscape designer Lori Ann David, also a docent at Lotusland, researched, fabricated and installed the custom frames to replicate original creatures.

LYNN WOODBURY



In about 1963, Lynn Woodbury shot this portrait of several of the topiary beasts in their heyday, complete with eyes, horns and other non-plant features.



VIRGINIA HAYES

The restored topiary garden (photo taken September 10th, 2013) has grown handsomely and is once again a beloved stop on a tour of Lotusland.

undergoing such continual and severe treatment. Gardeners must be well trained in the art of topiary to successfully execute the continuous schedule of pruning. In addition, the horticulture clock runs constantly and requires careful routine maintenance to keep it operating properly and on time. Unfortunately, the remaining funds from the 2000 campaign are about to run out.

Based on our thorough calculations of the annual cost of maintaining the

topiary garden with the horticulture clock, as well as anticipated wear and tear and minor renovations over the next 20 years, it was determined that a \$1 million endowment, once invested, will produce enough support to guarantee that garden in perpetuity. A generous, though anonymous, donor has just made that investment in the future of Lotusland's topiary garden.

Lotusland's horticulture clock and the topiaries are critically important

examples of the spectacular features incorporated into American garden estates during the first half of the 20th century, and they especially epitomize the whimsical aesthetic for which Lotusland is renowned. We are deeply grateful for this incredibly generous gift from an individual who believes in the vital importance of endowments and the power of endowment gifts to help us toward a greater capacity to preserve and sustain Lotusland.

Director's Letter

GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND is one of the few remaining examples of great American estates built in Santa Barbara during the Golden Age. Started in 1882, Lotusland was created by some of the most influential taste-makers in Southern California's estate building and garden design professions, including, among others, Reginald Johnson, George Washington Smith, Ralph Kinton Stevens, Lockwood De Forest, Charles Glass and Madame Ganna Walska.

Lotusland opened to the public in autumn of 1993, so even though this historic estate garden is more than 130 years old, this year Lotusland celebrates a 20th anniversary as a public garden and a non-profit organization overseen by a Board of Trustees and an Executive Director.

In these 20 years, the aging gardens of Lotusland have undergone innumerable renovations and restorations. Our work is far from finished, and it is not enough to restore these great gardens.

We must preserve them and guarantee that they will be kept well for posterity.

Many people are under the impression that Ganna Walska left adequate funding to sustain the garden in perpetuity, yet this is not the case. Moreover, because of the highly restrictive parameters of Santa Barbara County's Conditional Use Permit under which Lotusland is allowed to operate—specifically regarding visitation—our capacity to generate earned income to support the gardens is severely stifled. Consequently, Lotusland is dependent upon the generosity of members and donors to raise two-thirds of the annual budget each and every year.

Therefore, we have launched a critical initiative to raise endowment for Lotusland, focused on each garden's long-term needs. We have carefully calculated the cost to manage every garden over the next 20 years in order to determine the endowment required to guarantee permanent exceptional care for each of the gardens.



LEA ANNA DROWN

Gwen Stauffer

This is why we so deeply appreciate the recent generous gift of endowment for the topiary garden. This gift is a timely and momentous start to building critical endowment that will sustain and secure Lotusland for all of us now, and for the future.

With warmest regards,
Gwen L. Stauffer

LotusFest!

THE LOTUSES were in spectacular bloom in both the water and Japanese gardens for our annual celebration of Lotusland's legendary namesake. Guests enjoyed the beautiful afternoon sampling premium wines, brews and water representing some of the finest establishments from Santa Barbara County, the Central Coast and Hawaii. Delectable hors d'oeuvres

were served while mellow jazz was performed by *The Associates*.

Ikebana, the art of Japanese flower arranging, was demonstrated by Lotusland volunteer Valerie Halverson, and Lotus Lore Galore was on display in the pavilion.

Lotusland thanks these purveyors for making our afternoon such a success: Brander Vineyard, Carina Cellars, Carr

Winery, Daniel Gehrs Wines, Deep Sea Winery, Firestone Walker Brewing Company, Jaffurs Wine Cellars, Kenneth Volk Vineyards, Labyrinth Wine Cellars, Lucas & Lewellen Vineyards, Municipal Wine Makers, Riverbench Winery, Santa Barbara Winery, Summerland Winery, Toucan Wines, Waiākea Water and Whitcraft Winery.
—Dorothy Shaner



Friends enjoying the afternoon together on the main lawn are Terry and Joe Roy and Carol and Jim Hall.



Stefanie McGinnis and Sara King from Summerland Winery pour for appreciative guests.



Amelia Earl and Mike Lewellen pour a variety of wines from Lucas & Lewellen Vineyards.



Jim Shaner from Firestone Walker Brewing Company provides an alternative to wine, pouring a selection of reserve, pale and seasonal beers for the crowd.



Ryan and Jessica Carr from Carr Winery represent one of the generous vintners who participated in this year's LotusFest.



Greeting visitors on the main lawn is Lotusland's Executive Director, Gwen Stauffer, who welcomes Lotusland member Penny Bianchi and her guest.



Lotusland trustee Crystal Wyatt and her husband, Cliff, join guests Lauren and Steve Katz for an afternoon of wine and music.



The Associates (Jim Connolly, Josh Shelton and Nikolai Giefer) get the party started with their original jazz tunes.



Admiring the lotuses are Lotusland members Eric and Michelle Zimmermann and their guests, Lori and Claude Breant.

COLLECTIONS NEWS

New Population of Golden Barrel Cactus

IN 1942, just one year after buying Lotusland, Ganna Walska's great passion for cacti was already taking shape. Her collaboration with Lockwood de Forest to re-landscape the front of the house with these exotics set the stage for the development of the cactus collection that was hailed in 1953 as the "largest private cactus collection in America" and a "veritable cactus Eden," also noting that the "eye is drawn to golden barrels."

Many of the cacti acquired by Ganna Walska in the 1950s were supplied by botanical explorer Antonia Crowninshield, including golden barrels. This cactus was one of Ganna Walska's favorite plants, and she wanted to "have a monopoly for all barrels."

The golden barrel cactus (*Echinocactus grusonii*) is one of the most widely cultivated of all cacti, yet has long been one of the most endangered in the wild. After completion of the Zimapan Dam at the confluence of the Tula and San Juan rivers along the Queretaro-Hidalgo border in Mexico in 1993, approximately 90% of the only known population of golden barrels was lost under the rising water of the reservoir. This species has



PAUL MILLS

The golden barrel cactus (*Echinocactus grusonii*), photographed here at Lotusland, was previously known from only one location in Mexico until an entirely new population was discovered more than 300 miles away.

long been listed as critically endangered by the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature), last assessed at only about 250 individuals left in the wild. Lotusland alone has more than 350 golden barrels in the

planting bed around the main house.

A number of attempts to find additional populations of *Echinocactus grusonii* had limited success until 2005, when a group of German explorers made an amazing discovery in Zacatecas, 330 miles away from the original population of golden barrels. A previously unknown population of this plant was found that contains thousands of plants. With such a large distance between the two populations, there is some slight variation between the plants, such as the size of the seeds, but according to Hector Hernandez, cactus biologist at UNAM in Mexico, DNA studies have shown that the plants at the two populations are genetically indistinguishable.

Although the original population remains imperiled, this greatly improves the conservation status of *Echinocactus grusonii*. The location of the new population in Zacatecas has been mentioned in European journals, but attempts are being made to keep the exact location as secret as possible to allow these plants to flourish as they have for millennia without any adverse human impacts.

—Paul Mills

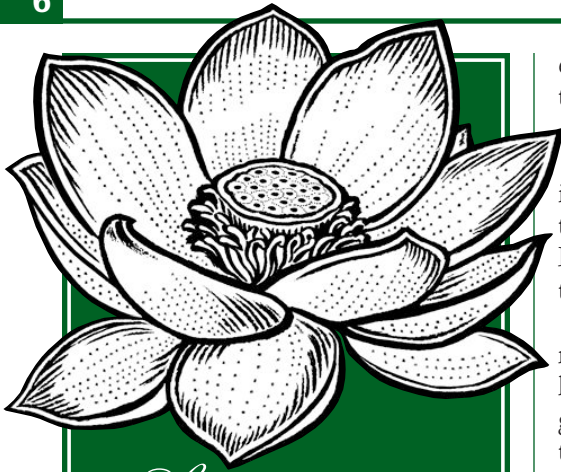
Succulent Wreath Making Workshops

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10 AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12
9:30 AM TO NOON



COURTESY PHOTO

MAKE YOUR OWN living wreath! Join us for an informative and fun succulent wreath making session at Lotusland. This workshop, designed for beginners, will lead you through each step in creating a beautiful living wreath that can be used year-round and requires minimal care. All materials to construct one 14-inch wreath are included in the workshop fee of \$45 for members, \$60 for non-members. Space is limited for both workshops, so please register early by calling 805.969.9990.



The LOTUS SOCIETY

BARBARA SAVAGE AND BOB ORNSTEIN

BARBARA SAVAGE AND BOB ORNSTEIN visited Lotusland for the first time several years ago when their friend Barbara Williams gave them a tour of the gardens. Barbara and Bob had just ripped out the lawn and water-thirsty plants around their home in Santa Barbara and were looking for plants that would thrive in our native chaparral. They ultimately chose to build their garden with California native plants, but also developed an

enduring love for Lotusland. "I value the diversity of Lotusland," Barbara told me. "I see plants new to me, and I see how they all differ, but are also interconnected." Interconnectedness is the life value that inspires Barbara and Bob, and eventually brought them together.

Barbara grew up in a small town in north Philadelphia, where she followed her passion for horses. "I was a stable girl," Barbara laughs, "and I still ride today!" Barbara also started a family and owned an art gallery and designed jewelry. Her life seemed on course until her devastating divorce led her to re-evaluate her life and seek her purpose. As a jeweler, she became interested in the talismans of indigenous cultures, which led her to a deep appreciation for the interconnected lives led by indigenous peoples, but also a great dismay at how indigenous peoples were forsaken and their cultures forgotten in the modern world. "These are Earth-loving cultures, where self-worth is not based on money and possessions. Rather, these cultures honor self-worth through their purpose in life and their interconnectedness to their natural environment and their spirituality, all celebrated in their traditions."

Barbara founded the Tribal Trust Foundation to preserve indigenous cultures by promoting worldwide environmental stewardship and empowering indigenous peoples. She travels all over the world to visit with indigenous peoples and create sustainable cultural preservation projects such as documentary films and traveling cultural arts, artifacts and photography exhibits. Barbara and another TTF board member, Dr. Dawn Murray, launched the Maya Project to focus children on the ecological and cultural stewardship and interconnectedness of the Maya and to understand, embrace and emulate their holistic approach to living.

Bob, who hails from New York City, moved west 43 years ago to launch a career in environmental litigation and focused his efforts on environmental protection and conserving California coasts with No Oil Inc. Bob learned of Barbara's work in environmental justice for indigenous peoples and wanted to get involved. They met over a cup of coffee and four

hours later, Bob and Barbara each discovered a kindred spirit.

When Barbara is not traveling the world for Tribal Trust, she rides her horse in the canyons around her home. When Bob is not assisting various environmental organizations in Santa Barbara and facilitating their success through collaboration, communication and consensus, he tends the lovely gardens around their home, even becoming a Master Gardner so he could do so with full consciousness.

Every once in a while they take a break to visit Lotusland. Bob loves the cactus garden, but also revels in being in the green-curtained expanse of the main lawn. Barbara admits an affinity to the three *Encephalartos woodii* cycads. Knowing these plants are extinct in the wild, Barbara tells me, "It is so sad, and when I look at those plants, I see them through my lens and the way I look at the world, and I think of the dying human cultures." Barbara became a member of *The Lotus Society* to support Lotusland's diverse plant collections and gardens and to help us manifest our dream to preserve Lotusland for all generations to come. In her most recent visit to Lotusland, Barbara saw the lotuses blooming for the first time, and like the lotuses, Barbara has risen out of the deep mud of life to become a beautiful and enlightened being.

—Gwen Stauffer



NEW MEMBER

THANK YOU TO THIS additional new member for her generous support.

Mary Scott
in Memory of Pat Scott

Members of *The Lotus Society* have each made a gift or bequest of \$10,000 or more to Lotusland's Endowment. Names of *The Lotus Society* members are engraved on the Wall of Honor, which is located at the Visitor Center at the end of the Australian tea tree arbor.

To learn more about *The Lotus Society*, please call Anne Dewey, Lotusland's Director of Development, at 805.969.3767, extension 105.



Bob Ornstein and Barbara Savage

Romancing the Garden

MADAME'S JOURNEY TO LOTUSLAND

LOVE WAS IN THE AIR at *Romancing the Garden* as 500 guests celebrated Madame Walska's romantic journey with her six husbands that ultimately brought her to Lotusland. This elegant sold-out event was a smashing success, the guests had a wonderful time and the event raised much-needed funds to support Madame Walska's final and greatest love, her garden.

We appreciate the generous support of our major Sponsors—Larry and Patricia Durham, I.D.O. Events, Inc., The Little One Foundation, Connie and John Percy, Leslie Ridley-Tree and Silverhorn Jewelers—and our Sustainers—Kind World Foundation, Rita and Henry Hortenstine and Laura Scandrett. A big thank you goes to Sotheby's for underwriting the cost of the event invitation and providing their fabulous auctioneer Eliza Osborne, and to Trillium Enterprises for underwriting the cost of the event program.

Creative Committee Co-chairs Jennie Grube and Eileen Rasmussen, along with their clever and hard-working committee members—Debby Baldwin, Nydia Cardot, Jill Chase, Karmyn Conk, Lisa Couvillion, Anne Dewey, Tamara Jensen, Emily Jones, Dawn Lafitte, Jill Levinson, Jillian Muller, Sandi Nicholson, Debby Peterson, Lizzie Peus, Laura Shelburne, Daryl Stegall, Courtney Tentler, Kim Thomas, Caroline Thompson, Crystal Wyatt and Deann Zampelli—did a wonderful job of creating a dreamy evening for the starry-eyed attendees!

Love flourished along the garden path beginning with a pair of violinists who welcomed guests amid boards chalked with sonnets of love. A big surprise in the Japanese garden was an authentic gondola rowed around the pond by a gondolier serenading his adoring audience with Italian opera! Poets lined the cypress allée quoting amorous love poems, and cast from the *State Street Ballet*, accompanied by sweet music, danced along the edges of the water garden. Madame Walska's six "husbands" were all in attendance, dressed in period costumes from the time of their marriages. Guests who found all six received a free raffle ticket to win a fabulous two-night stay at the L'Auberge Carmel Hotel with dinner at the famed Aubergine.

Duo Catering and Events created the delectable hors d'oeuvres and dinner, while Renaud's Patisserie & Bistro outdid themselves with two beautiful heart-shaped desserts that were more than scrumptious!

After dinner, Executive Director Gwen Stauffer welcomed guests and thanked our generous donors and talented event committee. She briefly spoke about Lotusland's community programs, then introduced our wonderful auctioneer, Eliza Osborne of Sotheby's, who cajoled and sweet-talked the audience into bidding on the six unique items: a private photography workshop with former *National Geographic* Editor-in-Chief Bill Allen; Adopt the Garden of your choice for one year (including a cocktail party for you and your friends); the incredible



Lannette and Scott Turicchi were the successful bidders for Japanese Garden, Lotusland, a grand contemporary charcoal drawing by Laura Scandrett (CENTER), and beautifully framed by Art Resources Custom Picture Framing of Santa Barbara.

abstract botanical charcoal drawing *Japanese Garden, Lotusland* by renowned contemporary artist Laura Scandrett and beautifully framed by Art Resources Custom Picture Framing of Santa Barbara; the always wildly popular "Dinner for Ten" with VIP guest Dr. David Low, who will enthrall dinner guests with his research on cellular communication; and Silverhorn Jewelers again created an incredible handmade treasure inspired by a piece from Madame Walska's collection of jewels—a ring featuring a 10 carat bright green peridot surrounded by rose-cut and fully-cut diamonds, set in 18K white gold. The auction culminated with an unforgettable five-night trip to London for the Chelsea Flower Show, with the lucky winners staying in a fabulous Kensington apartment and receiving a Connoisseur Membership with luxury travel company Indagare.

Following the live auction, we were honored to hear from Arlene Belmontes, a volunteer with Lotusland's Fourth Grade Outreach Program, and student Emilia Thomas, who just completed the 4th grade at Cold Spring School (her mother Kim is on the committee). They both did a terrific job of sharing their enthusiasm for Fourth Grade Outreach, and the audience responded by donating more than \$25,000 to help fund this important community program.

Romancing the Garden was a triumph of passion and the most successful fundraiser in Lotusland's history! We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to the following generous supporters of *Romancing the Garden*.

—Anne Dewey
Continued on page 8



Our creative, energetic committee members are Deann Zampelli, Crystal Wyatt, Jill Chase, Dawn Lafitte, Daryl Stegall, Lizzie Peus, Kim Thomas, Debby Baldwin, Eileen Rasmussen, Lisa Couvillion, Jennie Grube, Karmyn Conk, Nydia Cardot, Jillian Muller, Tamara Jensen, Jill Levinson and Caroline Thompson. Not pictured are Anne Dewey, Emily Jones, Sandi Nicholson, Debby Peterson, Laura Shelburne, and Courtney Tentler.



Mark Taylor, Executive Director Gwen Stauffer, Patricia Durham and Board President Larry Durham welcomed guests to the most romantic and creative event of the summer.



Pete & Jillian Muller and Jeff & Nydia Cardot supported the event as Contributors. Jillian and Nydia are members of the event committee and spearheaded the wonderful auction committee.

Continued from page 7

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PHOTOS THIS PAGE BY ROE ANNE WHITE



Longtime Lotusland supporter and event Contributor Patricia Broome (CENTER) brought her family along to experience the beauty and romance of the gardens.



Double Contributor Alex Rasmussen of the Neal Feay Company and his guest Holly Hunt enjoyed the garden before dinner.



Sandi Nicholson, event Sustainer Rita Hortenstine, and event Sponsor Connie Percy had a great time watching State Street Ballet dancers perform in the water garden.



Thomasine Richards and her daughter and event Sponsor, Belle Cohen, were enthralled with the serenading gondolier as he rowed his gondola in the Japanese pond.

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Brian King and event Sponsor Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree enjoy the romance with event Benefactors Luci and Rich Janssen, who were celebrating Luci's birthday with romantic "I Love Luci" attire.



Our fabulous event Co-Chairs Jennie Grube and Eileen Rasmussen visit with Carole Ridding of Silverhorn Jewelers, who created a beautiful peridot ring inspired by Madame Walska's jewels and donated it for the auction.

Horticultural Happenings

PLANT HEALTH CARE INTERNSHIP

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1986, more than 30 students have participated in Lotusland's resident internship program, working with grounds staff to learn maintenance skills and cultural practices required to maintain diverse gardens. In 2003 the "Grounds Maintenance Internship" became the "Sustainable Plant Health Care Internship," reflecting the philosophy, principles and practices of Lotusland's evolving plant health care program.

Carey White graduated in June 2013 from Williams College. His interest in the convergence of natural processes and landscape architecture led him to apply for our internship.

Lotusland is grateful to the John Percival and Mary C. Jefferson Endowment Fund for their generous support of this vital program. —Mike Iven

CARY WHITE, 2013 INTERN

THERE IS A CERTAIN AURA about Lotusland. When I mentioned my internship to a few of my classmates and professors, they said, "That's an amazing place! There's so much to see!" Clearly, I thought, this place leaves a strong mark on people. So it was with great anticipation that I first drove into Lotusland in June. Over the last few months, my high expectations have been exceeded and then some.

It is hard to reflect on how great my experience at Lotusland was without paying homage to my living arrangement. Spending a summer on a luxurious Montecito estate is probably the last place I expected to be after departing college life. While many of my friends were probably eating microwave pizza in their thin-walled apartments, I spent my free time reading on the main lawn

and peacefully swimming in the fern garden pool.

While my residence was truly unforgettable, the people I worked with and the knowledge I gained make this summer memorable. Every day brought something new, from mapping the seemingly endless plant collections to fixing broken irrigation pipes. Working closely with Plant Health Care Coordinator Corey Wells was definitely one of the highlights, providing me with as good an introduction to sustainable horticulture as I could have received anywhere. Corey's enthusiasm and deep understanding of plant care and the broader ecology are rare traits that I hope to bring to my future landscape architecture work.

I am very grateful to have had this opportunity to work with such a fun and passionate group of people. In particular I would like to thank Corey, Esau, Mike, Paul and Raj, as well as the rest of garden and maintenance staff: Robert, Jason, Alex, Tim, Mike, Eoin, Greg, Miguel, Bruno and Jorge. You guys were a blast to work with! I would also like to thank Sierra, Bambi, Liz and Kitty for helping me adjust to Lotusland and Santa Barbara. I hope to see you all again in the near future! —Cary White

BROMELIAD GARDEN PLANTING BED RENOVATION

WHEN THE HUGE *Quercus agrifolia* that stood behind the hedge at the back of the theater garden toppled over in September 2009, cultural conditions changed for other plants growing in the area. A shady bed, installed with plants not from the Madame Walska era and planted as part of the 1988 theater renovation, was suddenly a sunny one. A transplanted coast live oak replace-



Mike Furner, Lotusland's bromeliad gardener.

GINNY AND BOB GUESS

ment tree will shade the area in the future, but for now new plantings that thrive with more light will replace those that preferred shade. Mike Furner, Lotusland's bromeliad gardener, guided this recent renovation with help from staff and dedicated volunteers Jeannie Mason, David Heinz and Bill Gillette. Bromeliads from Lotusland's collection and some acquired from local growers were arranged with sandstone boulders to incorporate the area into the adjacent bromeliad garden. —Mike Iven

NEW GROUNDS MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT



Lotusland, and especially the grounds staff, are very grateful to the Harold Simmons Foundation for again funding a grant for power equipment that greatly improves maintenance efficiency. The new Bobcat MT55 Mini Track Loader was recently used to plant 31 new bamboo specimens along Sycamore Canyon Road.

MICHAEL IVEN



COREY WELLES

Cary worked with Plant Health Care Coordinator Corey Wells throughout the garden, as well as on maintenance and special projects with staff.



Since 2006, Bob and Ginny Guess have photographed the bromeliads at Lotusland for use in the new docent training program. The 2012 appointment of Mike Furner to manage the bromeliad gardens inspired them to continue their involvement.

GINNY AND BOB GUESS

Autumn Twilight Tour

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 • 3:00 TO 5:30 PM

AUTUMN AT LOTUSLAND presents the garden in a different light, full of shadows and colors that are unique to the season. Our popular Autumn Twilight Tour invites guests to

enjoy the later days of fall during a very special late afternoon.

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

hors d'oeuvres are served from 4:00 to 5:00 PM on the geranium terrace overlooking the main lawn. \$55/members, \$65/nonmembers. Reservations are required—please call 805.969.9990.

Sheats Goldstein Residence: A Lautner Masterpiece

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 • 9:00 AM TO 4:30 PM

THE SHEATS GOLDSTEIN residence was built in 1963 by Architect John Lautner, a student of Frank Lloyd Wright, who was responsible for many cutting edge and futuristic residences built in the 1960s. Today it is owned by James Goldstein, a multi-millionaire “NBA superfan,” who is also known for his flair for things stylish and fashionable. James bought the residence in the 1970s and hired Lautner to return and make improvements to the previously neglected house. Introducing technology that was not available 30 years ago, Goldstein and Duncan Nicholson, who took over the project

after Lautner’s death in 1994, continue to push the envelope with upgrades and changes that make this home a sought-after location for parties, photo shoots and movie locations.

Landscape Architect Eric Nagelmann, who has worked for more than 25 years with Goldstein on the landscaping, has offered Lotusland members a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to tour the residence and grounds. Transportation by motor coach from Lotusland to Beverly Hills and lunch are included in this memorable outing. Cost is \$150/members, \$175/nonmembers. Please call 805.969.9990 for reservations.

PLEASE NOTE: As this is a private residence, there is no disabled access to the many outside stairways. Comfortable walking shoes are a must.



Exterior of the Sheats Goldstein residence.

WOOLF HAXTON

Erté and Madame Walska

A LECTURE BY LOUISE COFFEY-WEBB

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

2:30 TO 4:30 PM



LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

PLEASE JOIN US for an afternoon of fashion history as Louise Coffey-Webb presents an exploration into the relationship between famed theatrical designer and fashion illustrator Erté and Madame Ganna Walska.

Ms. Coffey-Webb has worked in film and with institutions such as Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising Museum, Audrey Hepburn Estate Collection, Sony Pictures Entertainment Archives, and Warner Brothers Museum. Madame favored Erté’s operatic designs, and her collection ultimately found a home at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

The garden opens at 1:30 PM, and the lecture begins at 2:30 in the sunken drawing room. Light afternoon tea will be served following the lecture. Cost is \$40/members, \$50/nonmembers. Please call 805.969.9990 to make reservations.

Membership Corner

GIVING
GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

WITH THE HOLIDAYS just around the corner, consider giving the gift of free admission to a family or an individual on your list this year. Your tax-deductible contribution of just \$75 for an Individual and \$125 for a Family membership allows your friends, family or colleagues to receive Lotusland member benefits, such as enjoying the garden at their own pace with our self-guided tours option, discounts at some of our most popular events, lectures and workshops, and much more.

We also offer individual guest admission passes for \$35 each.

For more information, please contact Member Services at 805.969.3767, ext. 115 or 120.

Charles Glass...In His Own Words

PART XVI 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

SPEAKING OF “HAPPY”, her cockatiel, Mme. Walska adored him! His main accomplishment was to whistle “Happy Birthday” which he did slightly off-key, in perfect imitation of Mme. Walska’s coaching. When any visitor mentioned that it was his or her birthday, Mme. Walska would rush into the house and emerge with “Happy” on her shoulder piping a squeaky, “Happy Birthday to you! Happy birthday to you!”

“Happy’s” cage was next to the French window overlooking the side lawn over which route Mme. Walska invariably returned to her quarters after making her circuit of the gardens. She would hear him whistling “Happy Birthday” from across the lawn, and always took this as a sign that her bird saw her coming and was greeting her. Maybe he was. She would call out to him, “I’m cominck, Happy!” She never entered her apartment without first talking to him through the screen and caressing the screen with the tips of her fingers. She could shift from one

mood or mode with shocking ease and flexibility. One moment she could be screaming at me or at a gardener, with such ferocious intensity that you would expect her to fall in an exhausted heap on the ground at any second, and then she would turn to “Happy’s” window and coo at him with the most gentle, delicate voice!

Once she decided that he was lonely and needed a mate. Friends and acquaintances, always anxious to please, immediately started to supply her with a procession of prospective mates for “Happy”. They would all have their moment but, to “Happy’s” chagrin, would all be rejected. She’d pass by the window and see the new female sidle up to “Happy” along the perch, and Mme. Walska would start rapping against the screen, ordering the bird to “Get away, you hussy! Stop all the time pestering my poor bird!” and the newest potential mate would have to be returned to the giver with suitable apologies and explanations. “I’m sorry, but “Happy” just didn’t like your bird!”

The area around “Happy’s Terrace” was lined with a row of “Lotte Lehmanns”. These were cactus from South America, whose real name is *Trichocereus spachianus*, but Mme. Lehmann had visited Mme. Walska one time when this early morning bloomer had still been in flower, and their large white flowers are spectacular. Mme. Lehmann had been impressed, and forever after these plants had to be called “Lotte Lehmanns”. We had some “Lotte Lehmanns” in the hospital [Ed. Note: an area in the nursery for ailing plants] and when Mme. Walska would make her daily rounds, if she saw one of these in flower in the hospital, she would demand that it be taken up immediately and planted “around Happy’s Terrace”, never mind that the flowers lasted a few hours each and would be closed well before noon!

NEXT TIME

MORE STORIES FROM the Glass memoir.

—Excerpts edited by Virginia Hayes

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Help Make Lotusland’s Wishes Come True

TO DONATE FUNDS for this item, please call Anne Dewey, Lotusland’s Director of Development, at 805.969.3767, extension 105 or email her at adewey@lotusland.org.

Thank you so much to our incredible members who have helped us with our Wish List items—it makes such a big difference in our day to day operations, and we are very grateful.

🐾 TUFF SHED

We have two new Tuff Sheds, and we love them. They have helped us organize all of our stored items. But we really need one more, which is not in our budget.

It is 10'x20' and made of wood and stores an amazing amount of stuff!

Remember, you can contribute all or a portion of the entire cost—or get together with your friends and buy one as a group (think naming opportunity!). \$5013 including delivery and set up.

Volunteer Profile: Karl Kras

VISIONARY

KITTY THOMASSIN



Karl Kras

LOTUSLAND DOCENT KARL KRAS moved to Los Angeles from Chicago in 1993 to attend graduate school at the Southern California School of Architecture. Coming from a more traditional city, Los Angeles was like the Wild West to Karl.

Karl came to Santa Barbara in 2000 and worked in several architectural firms before starting his own firm in 2005. Kras Design Studio is a full-service architectural and interior design firm with a growing portfolio of residential and commercial projects, ranging from wine bars to new homes and commercial buildings.

Karl joined the 2009 docent training class after being introduced to Lotusland by the mother of his daughter's friend, a Lotusland docent. He was impressed by the training content, lecturers and staff, and the training pushed him outside of his comfort zone to become confident speaking to groups. Karl broadened his environmental knowledge on a trip to the San Juan Islands, where he learned about organic farming, ecological design, urban permaculture and natural building. Combined with everything he learned about plants in docent training, he now has a wealth of knowledge that applies to landscape design and plant selection.

Karl is actively involved with environmental organizations such as The Naples Coalition. He traveled to Sea Ranch, Sonoma County, to study how this planned community was able to preserve the area's natural beauty with housing developed in tune with nature, information that may apply to possible Naples development projects.

Karl lives and works in the funk Zone, and when Santa Barbara Mayor

Helene Schneider recently visited there, she and Karl discussed challenging developments such as the Funk Zone. With his background, Karl hopes to be the first person a potential developer will call to discuss a project so he can help steer it in the right direction with a balance between old and new.

Cycads are his favorite plants because they are primitive, historical, timeless and showy. Karl says a garden is an oasis, and he loves public urban oases such as Grant Park in Chicago, with a theater, gardens, artwork, and sporting and harbor facilities.

Karl regularly shares Lotusland with family, clients, artists and anyone doesn't know Lotusland. His two daughters—Quincey, 15, and Lulu, 11—especially enjoyed the *Swarm* exhibit and the bee dance program *Bees Circling Heaven*. Karl believes bringing artists and merging their specialties into Lotusland exhibits is a valuable opportunity for Lotusland's future. We may see Karl as a curator for an exhibit soon.

Thank you for loving Lotusland, Karl, and for everything you do for Lotusland.
—Kitty Thomassin

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

LOTUSLAND SAYS THANK YOU

ON MONDAY, JUNE 17, Lotusland staff held a picnic in the theatre garden to honor our volunteers and to thank them for their service to the garden. The picnic always falls near Madame Ganna Walska's birthday, June 24, so marking her birthday is a part of the celebration. Long-time docent Helene Mussbach and her associate, Howard Howe, entertained guests with accordion music.

Last year, more than 230 volunteers contributed an amazing 13,034 hours to Lotusland! More than half of our volunteers are docents who lead both regular public tours and fourth grade outreach tours for children from throughout the county. Other volunteers help maintain the grounds, staff the Garden Shop, help with greenhouse

propagation activities, assist with a variety of administrative projects, work at special events and assist us with our library and archives.

Curator Virginia Hayes welcomed everyone and thanked the volunteers for their dedication to Lotusland. Other staff members joined her on the theatre garden stage to offer thanks and recognition to all those gathered for this celebration. Board member Leland Walmsley awarded "years of service" stickers, to be affixed to volunteers' name badges, and gifts to those who have given 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of volunteer service.

A highlight of the annual picnic is a drawing for a dozen Lotusland plants specially potted for this event by Assistant Curator Paul Mills. Guests

enjoyed a delicious buffet luncheon followed by a special dessert—three incredible cakes decorated with edible portraits of Madame Walska and lotuses.

Thank you so much to all of our wonderful volunteers!



Class of 2013 docents Kristin Lewis, Kathy Hulick, Christine Fancher, Jennifer White, Karen Garrolini, David Melddrum-Taylor and Ralph Olsen.

KITTY THOMASSIN

Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2013

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WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2013

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JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2013

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JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2013

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Fall 2013 Member Events

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

Thursday, October 10 **Saturday, October 12**

*Succulent Wreath Making
Workshops*

9:30 AM TO NOON

See details on page 5.

Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, October 19

Autumn Twilight Tour

3:00 TO 5:30 AM

See details on page 11.

Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Friday, October 25

*The Sheats Goldstein Residence
A Lautner Masterpiece*

9:00 AM TO 4:30 PM

See details on page 11.

Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, October 26

*Erté and Madame Walska
A Lecture by Louise Coffey-Webb*

2:30 TO 4:30 PM

See details on page 11.

Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Friday, November 15

Last day of regular tours before the
garden is closed until Wednesday,
February 19, 2014.

Tours

Tours are offered at 10:00 AM and
1:30 PM, Wednesday through Saturday.
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.