



# LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS □ VOLUME 22 NO. 3 □ SUMMER 2013

## Romancing the Garden

BY COURTNEY TENTLER AND VIRGINIA HAYES

*M*ADAME GANNA WALSKA was a passionate woman and had many loves throughout her life. Her romantic journey included six husbands and ultimately brought her to Santa Barbara, where she lived her last 43 years creating and caring for her last and final love, Lotusland. Here is the story of those earlier loves.

Madame's first husband was Count Arcadie d'Eingorn. She met him in St. Petersburg, Russia, just after he returned from serving as a veterinarian in the Russo-Japanese War. She fell in love immediately, finding his clean-shaven look attractively foreign in a land of beards and mustaches. They flirted at balls and parties for almost a year before they eloped in 1907, when she was just 19 years old. Shortly after their marriage he was diagnosed with tuberculosis and the couple moved to a sanitarium in Switzerland in an attempt to recover his health. His refusal to submit to the sanitarium's strict regime, including sneaking out at night to drink and smoke at a nearby casino, left her discouraged. They were separated for several years before their marriage was dissolved in 1915.

By 1916, Madame Walska was singing at a French cabaret in New York, but developed a persistent throat problem and was referred to Dr. Joseph Fraenkel, a well-respected neuroendocrinologist. He was almost 30 years her senior, but he was immediately smitten and they were married just 10 days after their initial meeting. He adored her, calling her by the pet name "Baby," and introduced her to New York society.

Dr. Fraenkel had suffered from painful gastric problems for many years and Madame dutifully cared for him,

*Continued on page 2*



Madame Ganna Walska  
Circa 1920



Count Arcadie d'Eingorn  
Married 1907, annulled 1915

PHOTOS FROM LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

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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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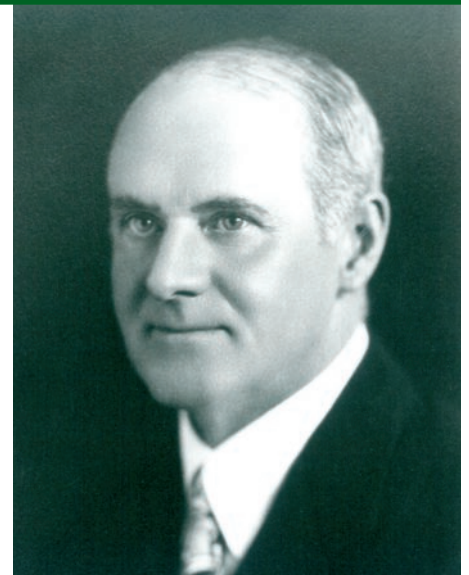
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## Mission Statement

*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.*



*Madame Ganna Walska with Dr. Joseph Fraenkel  
Married 1916, deceased 1920*



*Harold McCormick  
Married 1922, divorced 1931*

### *Continued from page 1*

feeling it was her destiny to help relieve his physical and emotional pain. His health declined dramatically in early 1920, and his death left her exhausted and devastated.

Later that year, Madame met Alexander Smith Cochran while crossing the Atlantic onboard the *Aquitania*; she had never met him before, but recognized him as a man she had previously noticed at various New York society events. He was often referred to in the press as “the most eligible bachelor in the world” and was the principal owner of the Alexander Smith and Sons Carpet Company in Yonkers, New York, having inherited a fortune from his

parents and the bulk of his uncle’s estate as well. Although he was depicted in the press as a free-spending bachelor who spent his time playing polo, yachting and fox hunting, he had more substantive interests, too. He collected antique books and Buddhist art, and he founded a literary club “The Elizabethan Club” at his alma mater, Yale.

From the very first day of marriage Madame realized her mistake; he was not the man she had imagined him to be. He showered her with gifts and a generous allowance but did so in a cold business-like manner that she found insulting. His selfishness and jealousy, as well as his amusement at her unhappiness, were shocking to her; they divorced in 1922.

It was during her marriage to Dr. Fraenkel that Madame met Harold McCormick, who would become her fourth husband. He was President of the International Harvester Company, founded by his father. He was also the primary benefactor of the Chicago Opera Company, and she met with him to ask for his assistance to sing with the company. He was not able to secure a role for that season, but she had made a lasting impression on him.

McCormick was incredibly kind, with a friendly smile and a gregarious nature. When he met Madame, he was already separated from his wife, Edith Rockefeller McCormick, who had moved to Europe in 1913 to be treated by Carl Jung. After their initial meeting, Madame and McCormick developed



*Alexander Smith Cochran  
Married 1920, divorced 1922*





Harry Grindell-Matthews with Madame Walska  
Married 1938, deceased 1941

a close friendship and corresponded frequently. In 1920, McCormick traveled to Switzerland to ask Edith for a divorce and, in a strange twist of fate, he also sailed on the *Aquitania*, the same ship that carried Madame and Cochran. Shortly after Edith consented to a divorce, McCormick heard of Madame's hasty marriage to Cochran and raced to Paris to try and convince her to get divorced and marry him instead. She refused, but they remained close friends and he patiently waited out her marriage, carefully limiting any public contact in order to prevent scandal.

Once her divorce from Cochran was finalized, Madame and McCormick married in Paris in 1922, and had a second ceremony in Chicago in early 1923 to satisfy the Illinois law code. He purchased the Théâtre des Champs Élysées as a wedding gift for her. It was her longest marriage, but as he primarily lived in Chicago and she lived in Paris, he eventually divorced her on the grounds of desertion in 1931.

Madame met Harry Grindell-Matthews in May of 1937, when she was in England for the coronation of King George VI. They were introduced by a mutual friend and discovered a shared love of opera and an interest in Eastern religion. Grindell-Matthews was a physicist and an inventor. A bit of a legend in his time, he claimed to have invented many technological innovations. His most well publicized invention was the "Death Ray," an experimental device that supposedly



Theos Bernard  
Married 1942, divorced 1946

could disable an engine from a distance.

Grindell-Matthews saw Madame as the woman of his dreams, but the feelings were not mutual. In addition to finding him physically unattractive, she was bothered by his egotism, jealousy and social aspirations. Nevertheless, she was intrigued by what her friends claimed was a potential to save England from war and she tolerated a limited (and mostly one-sided) correspondence. When he proposed marriage, she told him that she would never marry again. He became depressed and despondent and could not work and as he was designing a plan to deter air raids that was expected to save London from the ravages of war, her friends and government officials begged her to reconsider. They announced their engagement in August and married in London in January of 1938.

Grindell-Matthews returned to his laboratory immediately after the wedding, and Madame returned to her home in France. She had done her duty and enabled him to return to work, but she still found his personality grating, and eventually decided that he was a "small soul" who could never save the world from war. Madame learned she had once again become a widow in September 1941 when she received a telegram from Grindell-Matthews' housekeeper; he had died of a heart attack at the age of 61 while working in his lonely, secretive laboratory in Wales.

Madame met Theos Bernard in New York in 1940 when a friend invited

her to a yoga demonstration hosted by Bernard. Bernard was an explorer, a scholar and an author known for his work on yoga and religious studies. The first American to be initiated into the rites of Tibetan Buddhism, Bernard dubbed himself the "White Lama" and published a book about his travels to Tibet, *The Penthouse of the Gods*. Madame was not particularly impressed by him, but signed up for daily yoga lessons, and he soon shocked her by professing his love for her and asking her to marry him. When she explained that she was already married, he broke down crying. She was more than 20 years his senior and felt a motherly attachment to him.

At this time, Madame was also thinking about living more pragmatically and finding the best place to avoid the consequences of war should the United States become involved, or even invaded. She decided on a self-supporting farm or ranch in California. Bernard located two properties and convinced Madame to purchase them both with the objective of creating a retreat for Tibetan monks and a Tibetan education center. In 1941, she purchased *Cuesta Linda* in Montecito, which they renamed *Tibetland*, and *El Capitan*, which was renamed *Penthouse of the Gods*.

After Grindell-Matthews died in 1941, Bernard once again pressured Madame for marriage. Eventually, after a pre-nuptial agreement was signed, they wed in Las Vegas in the summer of 1942. Unfortunately, the marriage didn't fix the strain in their relationship, and he filed for divorce in 1946. He claimed that he had become accustomed to the life Madame had provided and was unable to support himself, but the divorce was finalized without the alimony he sought when he was caught perjuring himself regarding his financial situation, including a settlement from his first wife. Bernard traveled to Tibet one last time in 1947 and disappeared, never to be seen again.

*Note:* For those of you attending *Romancing the Garden* in July, this article can help you find all six of the "husbands" who will be at the event and win a free raffle ticket for a two-night stay at the famous L'Auberge Carmel Hotel, including dinner for two at the renowned restaurant Aubergine! Good luck!

SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE

# LotusFest!

SATURDAY, JULY 13 • 2:00 TO 5:00 PM

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

*Enjoy these afternoon delights:*

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

*Delectable hors d'oeuvres • Ikebana demonstrations*

*Smooth jazz • Lotus lore galore • Lotus viewing*

Tickets are \$85 for Lotusland members and \$95 for nonmembers. To register for this pleasurable afternoon, please call 805.969.9990.

## Lotusland Welcomes New Trustees

LOTUSLAND IS VERY PLEASED to introduce two energetic additions to our Board, new trustee Isabelle Greene and returning trustee Geoff Crane.

### ISABELLE GREENE



COURTESY PHOTO

ISABELLE GREENE has been designing gardens since 1964, nearly 600 of them now. After completing her taxonomic botany degree at UCLA, she took post-graduate art at UCSB and fell into a botanical illustration career. When a close friend suggested she design the

landscape for his new office, this spontaneous departure led to a civic award and thence a new career. Well along in her practice, she obtained coursework in Landscape Architecture from the University of Oregon and UCLA, obtaining her licensing certification in 1982. She was awarded the distinction of being made a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architecture, has lectured internationally and has been widely published. Deeply committed to sustainable practices, her landscapes age well and flow with the land and climate, as well as provide enduring beauty. She is a native of California and lives in Santa Barbara with her husband John.

### GEOFF CRANE

GEOFF CRANE has rejoined the Board of Trustees at Lotusland. Geoff's interest in Lotusland is a direct result of his family's past involvement with the landmark estate. His experience will be put to good use on Lotusland's Facilities and Nomination/Governance committees. Geoff is President of Giffin & Crane General Contractors, Inc., and has more



COURTESY PHOTO

than 38 years of experience in the construction industry. He serves on advisory committees for the Santa Cruz Island Foundation, the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation, Children's Museum Santa Barbara and is a member of the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce Business Leaders. Geoff previously served on the Board of Trustees at Crane Country Day School and remains active on an advisory level. He lives in Montecito with his wife Kim; they have three grown children, William, Karrie and Samantha.



## COLLECTIONS NEWS

## Succulents Along Sycamore Canyon Road

LOTUSLAND'S PINK WALL is a landmark in the neighborhood. Madame Walska installed the

iron gates and planted many different succulents at the historic entrance to the estate (even spelling out the former

name "Tibetland" in cacti at one point). In recent years, Lotusland has removed some of the spiniest plants in favor of more pedestrian-friendly species. With the support of Santa Barbara Beautiful, Lotusland staff recently planted several more species of colorful succulents to enhance the view that our neighbors have outside the garden.

*Aloe cameronii* is sometimes called the red aloe, because its narrow leaves turn coppery red in summer. Another smaller aloe, *A. brevifolia*, will eventually fill in between the other plantings as a blue-gray groundcover of small rosettes. Also sporting gray-green leaves, *Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi* is a low-growing shrubby species with slightly scalloped leaves. The selection just planted is one called 'Majestic Scallops' because its leaves are large and become faintly tinged with lavender in bright light. —Virginia Hayes



VIRGINIA HAYES

The striking red foliage of *Aloe cameronii* provides interest along Sycamore Canyon Road.

## Director's Letter

VISITORS TO LOTUSLAND frequently share with us the stories of their experiences in the gardens. Their various comments are threaded by a universal observation—Lotusland is one of the most beautifully maintained gardens they have ever seen. Stunned to learn that only nine gardeners tend over 30 acres of intensely managed formal gardens, our visitors then demand to know, "How do you do it?!"

Lotusland has a staff of gardeners who are well trained, well organized, very productive and deeply committed to conserving our important plant collections and preserving this historic garden. Now more than 130 years old, this aging estate garden needs more than just exceptional maintenance. Restoration, renovation and renewal—big projects we cannot accomplish without resources beyond our budget—are also required. Fortunately, donors who cherish Lotusland have helped, and we can attribute much of the fantastic condition of the gardens to them.

One such gift supported the least visible, yet extremely critical, renovation at Lotusland. In 2009, just a few months

before her death, past Board President Carol Valentine dedicated a substantial gift to build an extensive and complex drainage system encompassing the perimeter of the gardens. Due to old covenants and county regulations, Lotusland was prohibited from diverting winter storm runoff from adjacent private properties. Every year the gardens were severely damaged by flooding, so our garden staff spent the first few months of every spring putting the gardens back together again.

With Carol's gift and a new drainage system, we now capture all the winter storm runoff and channel it into a series of bioswales and retention boxes to reduce both volume and velocity. Any remaining runoff is directed into the county storm system, thereby saving the gardens and also protecting every neighbor downhill from Lotusland. Because the drainage system greatly reduces winter damage to the gardens, our small garden staff can spend their valuable time continuing to improve the gardens. Instead of falling behind every winter, we now move ahead every spring.



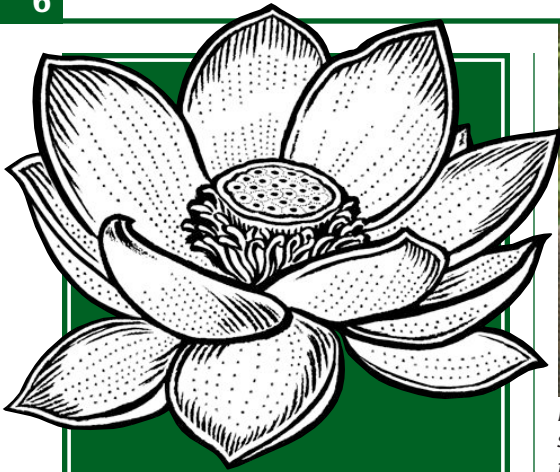
LEA ANNA DROWN

Gwen Stauffer

Carol Valentine's willingness to support an essential but "un-sexy" project has enabled our small but hard-working staff to make Lotusland one of the most superbly manicured gardens in the world. While many sections of the garden still require major renovation—and we are always looking for help to get it done—we hope you will visit and enjoy the incredible beauty of Lotusland often. When you do, please whisper a little "thank you" to Carol.

Warmest regards,  
Gwen L. Stauffer





## The LOTUS SOCIETY

### LUNCHEON HONORS MEMBERS OF THE LOTUS SOCIETY

ON A COOL JUNE AFTERNOON we thanked and celebrated our members of *The Lotus Society* with a special recognition luncheon at the beautiful Montecito home and gardens of Ella and Scott Brittingham. More than 90 members enjoyed superb food and wine, spectacular panoramic ocean views and lively, fun conversation.

Started in 2000, *The Lotus Society* now has 132 members who have made planned bequests or given outright gifts of \$10,000 or more to Lotusland's restricted endowment—our most critical fund. For more information about joining *The Lotus Society*, please contact Lotusland's Director of Development, Anne Dewey, at 805.969.3767, extension 105.



*Laura Lee Woods is a long-time and generous supporter of Lotusland since the garden opened to the public in 1993. Her guest is Glen Henry Mitchel.*



*Jeff Chemnick is the chair of Exceptional Plants, Lotusland's fall plant auction. With him is his lovely wife Dr. Satie Airamé.*



*Mimi Michaelis (LEFT) and Linda Sullivan enjoy the opportunity to explore the lovely gardens, originally designed by Florence Yoch and later "refreshed" by Margie Grace.*



*Greg Stathakis and his guest Sue Barbis just returned from an exciting trip to Australia and New Guinea in time to join other members of The Lotus Society for the annual luncheon.*



*New members of The Lotus Society in 2012 are Jim Foster and Sandra Russell—both are much-appreciated docents at Lotusland.*



*The always entertaining chair of The Lotus Society, Peggy Wiley, thanked guests for their wonderful support of Lotusland's endowment program.*



*Gerald and Claire Parent (LEFT) join host Scott Brittingham. Scott shared the history of the estate with guests, including that it was built during the 1930s and was originally 30 acres.*



*Amanda McIntyre and Arthur Gaudi flank host Ella Brittingham. A Lifetime Honorary Trustee, Arthur created The Lotus Society program 13 years ago and was a founding member. Ella served as a Lotusland trustee from 2002 to 2007.*



# Horticultural Happenings

## EUPHORBIA INGENS AND SYAGRUS ROMANZOFFIANA

SADLY, ONE OF THE LARGE, old iconic weeping *Euphorbia ingens* that distinguish the front of the main house was recently removed as a result of progressive deterioration. This is the third *E. ingens* lost over the past 15 years or so in the same location. The large succulents planted near the foundation of the main house have stability issues, because support roots can only grow away from the house, and a shallow, compacted clay pan contributes to the challenge of growing large succulents there. Thirty or more years ago, pipes were set in cement to brace the already leaning *E. ingens*. In the 1980s, stainless steel cable attached to eyehooks in the framing of the main house were attached to large leaning branches. In the 1990s, the temperature dropped below freezing long enough to burn the *Euphorbia* when frost settled on top of its branches (incidentally, the Japanese pond froze over that year, too). For many years, bees lived in a hollow cavity in the *Euphorbia*'s trunk. We noticed an accelerated deterioration lately and were concerned about the hazard it posed to staff and guests. Much of the plant was, in fact, dead and a veritable Petri dish of goo was discovered in the trunk when



*Euphorbia ingens* weeping form.

it was removed. It has been replaced with a young 20' tall *E. ingens* from a *Euphorbia* planting bed on the main drive. This plant is already beginning to weep and is most likely a clone from the original weeping *Euphorbias* planted by Madame Ganna Walska.

Another old Lotusland plant was removed in the spring. The 70' tall *Syagrus romanzoffiana*, or Queen Palm, growing among the *Dracaena dracos* began leaning significantly toward the courtyard in front of the main house following a night of 70 mph winds. Stress cracks compromised the trunk in an area hidden by the canopy of a *Dracaena*. Queen Palms are thought to be relatively short-lived compared to many other palm species and are described as a large palm that can reach

50' in height. This exceptional Lotusland palm towered above everything in the area.

## NEW STORAGE SHEDS

FINDING SUFFICIENT STORAGE SPACE is an ongoing issue at Lotusland. New programs are being developed and existing programs continue to grow and improve, but our infrastructure doesn't always keep pace to support this growth. Recently, two 10x12-foot sheds were installed on the grounds, making it much easier to organize, locate and care for items needed for Lotusland's varied operations and events.

## SYCAMORE CANYON ROAD PLANTINGS

A GRANT FROM Santa Barbara Beautiful provided a portion of the funds needed for the project that included over 200 new plantings along Sycamore Canyon Road and some additional plants for the Cold Springs Road visitor entrance landscape. The pedestrian-friendly plants on Sycamore Canyon are located between the walking path by the stucco wall and the roadway. A variety of attractive succulents will help define the pathway and, once established, will be relatively low maintenance and have low water usage requirements.

—Michael Iven



Charles Glass's plant records mention two younger *Syagrus* growing nearby in the *Dracaena* circle. Their origin is not definitive, but it is assumed they are volunteer seedlings from the original palm.



Barn-style sheds with loft space are effective solutions to Lotusland's storage issues.



*Agave vilmoriniana*, *A. attenuata* 'Nova', *Aloe cameroni*, *Beschorneria yuccoides* and *Kalanchoe fesshenkoi* were among the species used for the perimeter planting renovation.

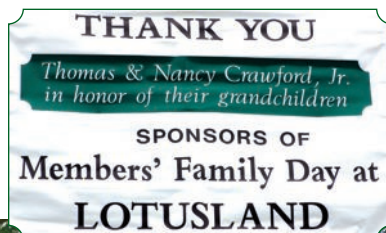


# Members' Family Day, May 18, 2013 🌿 *A Jurassic Adventure!*

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THOMAS & NANCY CRAWFORD, JR. IN HONOR OF THEIR GRANDCHILDREN

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

Crawford family members, including six grandchildren, enjoyed another day of fun this year.



Give these girls a few objects from nature and a hot glue gun, mix in some creativity, and you have art.



Artists tall and short contributed to the mural created by artist Kathy Mills.



Floating a dino ducky down the rill was a hit with the little ones.



This multi-generational family is raring to go and was among our first arrivals of the day.



How many Lotusland members does it take to hold up a really big snake? Lots, if it is this one from Reptile Family Safari Extravaganza.



Area 51 performed their rockin' music under the giant Cyprus tree.



Photographer Bob Debris always has just the right clothes and props to make for an adorable souvenir photo.



Who knew that Frisbee golf would take such concentration and form.



Best friends ready to take on all the adventures of the day.



Anji Lawson's T-rex face painting was very popular, and these two boys wear theirs proudly.



Decorating pots with dino stickers at the potting shed was just one of the craft activities.



Clothing and accessories by Bob Debris, enhanced by these beautiful smiles.





Catherine Thielst

## Volunteer Profile: Catherine Thielst

### YOUNG AND SMART

Barbara from Pasadena when Catherine was eight months old to be close to her grandmother Louise Thielst, or Nona, as she called her. Louise, Gunnar Thielst's widow, lived in the pink cottage on Lotusland property; she passed away two years ago at the age of 97. Catherine is the oldest of the three children; Christian will be 16 and Sarah will be 12. The Thielst children visited Nona at least twice a month and stayed overnight with her. Catherine was lucky enough to learn to swim in Lotusland's pool and has fond memories of a tea party Nona held for Catherine's 12th birthday, where she served tea with fancy matching teacups and saucers and an Alice in Wonderland cake.

Catherine says her earliest memories of the garden are of a statue of a girl with a necklace; Nona told her that little girl was Catherine's statue. The Shinto shrine in the Japanese garden was a very special place for her and her Nona. Catherine thinks the garden looks much the same to her now as when she was younger, although the trees have grown taller and we have a beautiful newly renovated blue garden.

Catherine's dad Geoff is a big plant lover, and he is in charge of assigning garden jobs like moving plants, clearing leaves, repotting, spreading woodchips, watering flowers and more in their own

mini-Lotusland. Her favorite plant at home is a variegated agave. Their family has been Lotusland members for a long time, and they like to bring family and friends here and visit Nona's old house. Catherine's family travels often to Louisiana to visit her mom's family and cousins. They also love camping with their trailer in national parks in the Southwest and swimming and fishing. Catherine's other hobby is reading; she loves romance and fantasy books. It is no surprise that she loves all the Harry Potter books and enjoys writer Sarah Dessen.

During our Members' Family Day last month, Catherine helped scoop and serve ice cream for two hours, and last year assisted the mural painters. At the last *Lotusland Celebrates*, she helped with the auction and patron's gifts and looks forward to a new assignment at *Lotusland Celebrates* this July. Catherine told me that she is very quiet and shy and pretty awful with names, but she enjoys meeting people and working with people. Before she begins her college career studying international business—when she comes back after her graduation and Disney adventure—she has been offered a paid position with us at Lotusland.

Congratulations on your graduation, Catherine, and welcome to our Lotusland team.  
—Kitty Thomassin

### Summer Twilight Tour

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17  
3:00 TO 6:00 PM

OUR POPULAR TWILIGHT TOUR invites guests to enjoy the last days of summer at Lotusland during a very special afternoon. You and your guests can choose to reserve a docent-guided tour or explore the garden on your own.

All guests begin their tour with a beverage served in a commemorative Lotusland wine glass. Hors d'oeuvres and wine 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.

### Monday Morning Lecture

THE DUNLAP CACTI COLLECTION  
WITH PAUL MILLS

MONDAY, AUGUST 19 • 9:30 TO 11:30 AM

COME AND HEAR how the Dunlap Cacti Collection came to become one of Lotusland's gardens at a lecture by Assistant Curator Paul Mills, part of the team that made it happen. Paul will present a PowerPoint lecture chronicling the collaboration between Madame Walska and Merritt Dunlap and how the collection was moved from its original home in Fallbrook, California, to its present location at Lotusland. Paul will highlight some of the plants in the collection, followed by a walking tour through the garden.

Lotusland members at the Friend level (\$250) and above are invited to attend at no charge. Others may attend for \$35. Reservations are required for all levels of membership. To reserve a space, please call 805.969.9990. If you wish to upgrade your membership, please call 805.969.3767, extension 120.



## Exceptional Plants: Lotusland Auction and Sale

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 • 2:00 TO 5:00 PM

**B**ACK BY POPULAR DEMAND, Lotusland will again hold a plant auction and sale on Saturday, September 21, from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Once again, the highlight of the event will include a spirited live auction during which a dozen or so very rare, very special plants will go under the gavel with Jeff Chemnick as the celebrity auctioneer. Other choice plants and garden books will be offered during a silent auction, and there will be an expanded section of extraordinary plants for immediate sale throughout the afternoon. Funds from the event go to much-needed garden restoration projects

and acquisition and maintenance of the plant collections.

Donations are being solicited from numerous plant collectors and other botanical gardens (such as the Huntington Botanical Garden) and will include some truly fabulous specimens. The full list of plants and auction items will be available on the Lotusland website, but a few to mention are: three different forms of *Euphorbia horrida*; rare palms such as *Hedyscepe canterburyana*, *Jubaea chilensis* and *Copernicia alba*; and an interesting cactus from Baja California, *Stenocereus eruca*.

Tickets, which are available for



VIRGINIA HAYES

purchase now on the Lotusland website (<http://www.lotusland.org/node/371>), are \$125. The fee includes bidding rights, complimentary fine wines, premium beers and sumptuous hors d'oeuvres. Space is limited, so mark your calendars and plan to spend a fun afternoon with Lotusland staff and take home a special plant for your own garden.

## Your Legacy Gifts Help Lotusland and the Bees!

**M**EMBERS OF THE LOTUS SOCIETY had a big treat when they attended *Inside the Swarm: Get the Buzz!*, a special tour of the art exhibit and reception for members and their



RICK CARTER

Long-time Lotus Society members Jane and Randy King join Executive Director Gwen Stauffer in front of "Daphne," the incredible beeswax installation by artist Penelope Stewart.

guests. The appreciative group joined Guest Curator Nancy Gifford to learn what inspired the creation of *Swarm: A Collaboration with Bees*, the show that everyone has been buzzing about! Nancy provided a behind-the-scenes tour of the exhibit and talked about the importance of honeybees in pollinating numerous plants and crops. Lotusland is not only an oasis of beauty and tranquility for people, but also an oasis for honeybees, and Lotusland is actively working to protect threatened bee colonies and promote bee awareness.

*The Lotus Society* is also about survival, as it is composed of dedicated Lotusland supporters who want to ensure that Madame Walska's amazing

garden will be here for future generations to enjoy. Members of *The Lotus Society* have made gifts, bequests or pledges of \$10,000 or more to *The Lotus Society* endowment. They are recognized on the Wall of Honor at the Visitor Center, which was recently engraved with the names of those who joined *The Lotus Society* in 2012.

For more information on how to join, please contact Director of Development Anne Dewey at [adewey@lotusland.org](mailto:adewey@lotusland.org) or 805.969.3767, extension 105. More information about *The Lotus Society* is on our website, [www.lotusland.org](http://www.lotusland.org).

We welcome one new member of *The Lotus Society* who wishes to be anonymous. —Anne Dewey

## Fall Harvest Dinner: A Lotusland Food and Wine Fete

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 • BEGINNING AT 4:00 PM

**F**ALL HARVEST DINNER: A Lotusland Food and Wine Fete is a culinary celebration of superbly prepared dishes featuring locally sourced ingredients, all fresh from the farm as well as Lotusland's organic orchard, and expertly paired with wines from a local vintner.

Set on Lotusland's spectacular main lawn in the soft beauty of early evening

light, this intimate farm-style feast will be a truly unique dining experience. Our guest chef and guest vintner will lead the conversation to share their gastronomic passions and culinary inspirations for creating this memorable evening for you.

This event is one of the new event offerings created specifically for the *Lotus Keeper* levels of membership. Fall

Harvest Dinner is limited to 50 paying attendees and will open for reservations when invitations are mailed in August.

Not a *Lotus Keeper* level member? Call Member Services at 805.969.3767, extension 120 or 115 to find out more about the benefits and special opportunities for *Lotus Keeper* level members at \$500 or above.



# Charles Glass...In His Own Words

PART XV 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

AFTER THE SUCCULENT GARDEN, the next area we tackled was the cactus, a narrow strip of haphazardly arranged cacti along the main drive. She had grouped many of the white-spined cactus together and there were the golden barrels in front of the house....but otherwise there was little consistency or planning with the other cactus that had just been added over the years to wherever there was room. The soil had never been properly conditioned, and water penetration was minimal so most of the cacti were chlorotically yellow, starving and suffering. We decided we would have to remove all of the cacti from the ground and completely renovate the soil, moving in as many large and interesting pieces of "San Felipe Stone" or "Pot Rock" as it is called, for landscaping. Mme. Walska often accused us of having a garden of rock rather than a collection of plants, and there was often a struggle to get her OK to buy more needed rocks. This is rather surprising for she, herself, had indeed had collections of rocks, but it was the combining of rocks with plants that sometimes threw her. She did appreciate a beautifully shaped rock, and would spend hours or days placing a new rock she had purchased in just the right position, just the right angle, perhaps burying two-thirds of it. The first time she had

me do the rock placing I knew she was partly showing me off to guests. Both Bob and I would visualize exactly how a rock or plant would look and we would fairly quickly and efficiently place it in that position. I knew that otherwise she would never accept that I gave its placement adequate consideration. And, I must admit that I did learn to be more of a perfectionist in placing a plant or rock just so, considering every vantage point, and at the same time I knew I had better be equipped with a plausible explanation of why I positioned it in just that position, at just that angle!

One time when we were discussing rocks she came up with a description which I have always loved. She said that she liked a rock with time on it, meaning by that, a shading of algae, moss or lichens, or a patina that a rock only attains from long exposure to the elements. I wondered how someone who could make such a comment could fail to appreciate the value of rocks in the landscape.

She went into a long explanation of why she was so hesitant to use rocks in the gardens, "Compromise...people say, 'Crazy woman! Garden of rocks not plants! She puts *shells* in her gardens!'"

...We mixed and molded the soil into mounds and valleys, expanding the garden backwards as much as we dared, again sneaking back into the rear area, the sea of great blue-white agaves

bordering the lawn, to give the narrow garden a greater sense of depth. We grouped the hundred or so beautiful, soft, golden-spined, shortly columnar, clustering golden ball cactus or *Notocactus leninghausii*, into one mass planting on a low rise or hill, and grouped other similar kinds together, all down the drive, barrel cactus, torch cactus, old man cactus, etc. Mme. Walska gave in on the rocks, but she adamantly refused to buy more cactus with the reasonable explanation, "We can't care for the ones we have it [sic] already!" Since, however, the cactus area would be most closely associated with us, considering our background, we wanted it to have an impressive array of species, so every few days we would sneak in a truckload of our cactus and incorporate them in the landscaping. She apparently never noticed the hundreds of stow-aways.

This work went on in the summer of 1974. We were hosting a Congress of the International Organization for Succulent Plant Research (IOS) in Santa Barbara that September and we had hoped to finish the cactus area by then, but the job was just too enormous and we had to delete a tour of Lotusland from the published schedule of the Congress. Actually it was another four years before we could get Lotusland in shape for a major tour.

—Excerpts edited by Virginia Hayes

## Membership Corner

DID YOU KNOW that Lotusland is required to operate under a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) issued by the County of Santa Barbara, with over 50 restrictions that regulate all aspects of Lotusland's operations? Since all of the CUP restrictions regarding visitors apply to members as well as non-members, we want to clarify the most important restrictions that can impact you.

The most significant restriction is the severe limit on the number of cars and visitors, for both members and non-members, allowed on days we may be open to the public. Tour days are

Wednesday through Saturday for only a portion of the year. We are permitted 15,000 visitors annually, and all of them, including members, must make a reservation to visit Lotusland. We strongly recommend that you plan ahead! If we have reached our limits, we will not be able to accommodate you. When you have a tour reservation, you must arrive between 9:30 and 10:00 AM for the morning tour and between 1:00 and 1:30 PM for the afternoon tour, whether you are here for a docent-led tour or as a member enjoying a self-guided tour.

We know that visiting Lotusland seems complicated, but planning a visit

to Lotusland is comparable to planning the purchase of a ticket to a live theater performance—limited seats are available and the show opens at a designated time. Nonetheless, we profoundly apologize for the inconveniences caused by the CUP—we neither want nor like to turn away our members who want to visit the garden.

We are pleased to be commended as excellent neighbors since Lotusland opened 20 years ago, and we appreciate your membership loyalty and support!

If you have any questions, please call Member Services at 805.969.3767 extension 115 or 120.



# Lotusland's 4th Grade Outreach Program: School's Out for Summer!

**S**UMMER RECESS officially began at Lotusland on June 7th when the last 4th Grade Outreach class from the 2012/2013 school year wrapped up their tour at the Visitor Center.

Lotusland successfully "graduated" 2,375 students, teachers and chaperones who participated in our life science program. These students receive their junior botanist "degree" by classroom study, touring the garden and successfully completing a question-and-answer

quiz at the end of their tour. Along with 38 public elementary schools from Carpinteria, Santa Barbara and Goleta, Lotusland welcomed the Mary Buren Elementary school from Guadalupe for the second year in a row. Thanks to grant funding, their trip this year included a train ride to and from Guadalupe and Santa Barbara, with bus transportation to both Lotusland and the the Ty Warner Sea Center on Stearns Wharf.

—Dorothy Shaner



PHOTOS BY RICK CARTER

*A photosynthesis question gets an enthusiastic reaction from this student from Michele Fox's class. More than 130 students participated in this day-long excursion, each one leaving as a "junior botanist."*



*After boarding the train in Guadalupe at 7:30 AM, the students are eager to start their journey through Lotusland's gardens of the world.*



*Trying to determine the location of the bunya bunya tree, the 4th graders get a lesson in map navigation by docent Dana Doyle.*



*Docent Kevin Spracher points out the pollen on the cones of the Encephalartos woodii, one of the "three bachelors" in the cycad garden.*

## Thank You to Our

### GARDEN CHAMPIONS

Bruce Heavin & Lynda Weinman  
Mrs. Andy Pearson

### GARDEN STEWARDS

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Durham  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian J. Kelly  
Mercedes Millington & Jack Mithun  
Michael & Patty Rosenfeld

### GARDEN GUARDIANS

Mr. & Mrs. Ted Friedel  
Ms. Cyndee Howard  
Suzanne & Gilbert Mathews  
Mr. & Mrs. John K. Percy  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Uwé Rollé  
Mrs. Anitra P. Sheen  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Simmons  
Ms. Beverly Smaniotto  
Ms. Jeanne Thayer  
Ms. Melanie Trent

## Help Make Lotusland's Wishes Come True

**T**O 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 [adewey@lotusland.org](mailto:adewey@lotusland.org). Thank you!

### 🌱 TERRA COTTA POTS

Four custom-made terra cotta pots for the Water Garden to replicate the four historic ones from the Gavit family era. \$500 per pot

### 🌱 LABEL MACHINE

To maintain current records on all of the plant collections, each planting is labeled with a permanent metal tag stamped with its name and identifying accession number. \$10,000

### 🌱 LAPTOP

Minimum 4GB memory and 500GB hard drive, multi-core processor. \$750

### 🌱 TUFF SHED

The two Tuff Sheds we just bought are terrific. We need one more, but it is not in our budget. It is 10'x 20', made of wood and stores so much stuff! \$5,013 including delivery and set up



# Lotusland Members

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2013

## LOTUS KEEPERS

### GARDEN STEWARD

Michael & Patty Rosenfeld

### GARDEN CONSERVATOR

Mr. & Mrs. Herb Simon

### GARDEN CULTIVATOR

Christopher & Wendy Blau  
Dr. Karen Davidson  
Lori & Christian Tudor  
Georgene Vairo & Jenn Kennedy

### GARDEN ADVOCATE

Mrs. Elizabeth Batarse  
Mr. Wilford Lloyd Baumes  
Lola Hagadone & Margaret Walther  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Hampson  
Ron & Shirley Heck  
Fred & Linda Jo Meise  
Mr. Paul Orfalea  
Dr. Arthur J. Posch & Paulette Posch  
Elizabeth Potter

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

### FRIEND

Mary Ett Brown & Joshua Brown  
Debra Glahn & Martin Meltz  
Susan Grimes Sweetland & Andrew Grimes  
Peggy Grossini  
David Low & Anita Fernandez-Low  
Ms. Anne Newman  
Bernadine Oberst  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Saxon  
Pamela & Jon Shields  
Laurie & Andrew Wilson

### FAMILY

Ms. Daniella Andre & Mr. Philip Ramey  
Earl & Leslie Armstrong  
Winthrop & Melissa Banning  
Jessica Barnard  
Susan & Roberta Bell  
Pamela Benham & Paul Hansma  
Ms. Brigitta Biro & Mr. Paul Summers  
Gerhard & Heather Bock  
Ms. Diana Brelsford  
Phyllis Carson & Steve Colmar

Mel Clark & David Reilly  
Dr. Marshall Lawrence Clevenson  
& Susan Tova  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry John Connery  
Mr. Adam Cooper & Ms. Hollie Jagen  
Brian & Susie Dell  
Mr. & Mrs. David DeLorie  
Leslie Edwards & Jeff Macklin  
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Jerry Freedman & Chris Bell  
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Laura Gabbert & Andrew Aveny  
Martha & John Gabbert  
Mr. Chris George  
& Mr. Benjamin Trunnell  
Randall & Jana Greer  
Paul Groh & Francisco Linares  
Lily Guild & Mark Collins  
Penny Hamilton  
Sally Hearon & Don Shook  
Mandy & Daniel Hochman  
Kristin Horton  
Kathy Hulick & Phil Blake  
Cathy & Paul Kalenian

## Renewing Lotus Keeper Members

MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2013

### GARDEN GUARDIAN

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Simmons  
Beverly Smaniotto

### GARDEN CONSERVATOR

Deborah Baldwin  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert J. Emmons  
Linda & Fred Gluck  
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Crystal & Clifford Wyatt

### GARDEN CULTIVATOR

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Mr. Harlis Maggard

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Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Weber  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Fairbanks  
Stuart & Hannelore Mabon  
Mr. M. Greg Stathakis  
Dr. Carrie Towbes & Dr. John Lewis

## Members Who Have Increased Their Level of Support

MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2013

### LOTUS KEEPERS

#### GARDEN CONSERVATOR

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Johnson

#### GARDEN CULTIVATOR

Riley & Susie Bechtel  
Ian & Michelle Fisher  
Tim Gill & Scott Miller  
Ms. Gwen L. Stauffer  
& Mr. Mark V. Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Vassallo

#### GARDEN ADVOCATE

Ms. Hannah G. Bradley

Roland & Joyce Bryan

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

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Dorothy & John Gardner  
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Donivee & Merrill Nash  
Arlene & Alfred Noreen  
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## Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

### MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2013

#### 2012 GIFTS FOR THE GARDEN

##### GENERAL FUND

Grassini Family Vineyards  
 Ms. Andrea Joel  
 Sarah & Jim Taylor & Mary Dale Gordon  
 in honor of docent David Heinz  
 Lubos Vaclav  
 Visionscape, Ruben Flores

##### LOTUS SOCIETY

Anonymous

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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Crawford, Jr.  
 in Honor of their Grandchildren

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IBM Matching Grant Program  
 as directed by Philip Pollastrino  
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##### IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAYS OF SHERMAN VINCENT, LORI MESCHLER, DOROTHY SHANER, KITTY THOMASSIN AND DIANE GALVAN

Harlis Maggard

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 in appreciation of his tour  
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 of docent Harlis Maggard

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#### IN MEMORY OF JUDY SCHWOCHO

Lori Kraft Meschler

*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.*





# Ganna Walska LOTUSLAND®

695 Ashley Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

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## Summer and 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.

### **Saturday, July 13**

#### *LotusFest!*

2:00 TO 5:00 PM

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

### **Sunday, July 28**

#### *Lotusland Celebrates*

#### *Romancing the Garden*

4:00 TO 8:00 PM.

Please contact Courtney Tentler at 805.969.3767 ext. 116 to reserve your space. *Please note:* This event is almost sold out.

### **Saturday, August 17**

#### *Summer Twilight Tour*

3:00 TO 6:00 PM

See details on page 10. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

### **Monday, August 19**

#### *The Dunlap Cacti Collection with Paul Mills*

9:30 TO 11:30 AM

See details on page 10. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

### **Saturday, September 21**

#### *Exceptional Plants:*

#### *Lotusland Auction and Sale*

2:00 TO 5:00 PM

See details on page 11.

### **Saturday September 28**

#### *Fall Harvest Dinner:*

#### *A Lotusland Food and Wine Fete*

4:00 TO 7:00 PM

See details on page 11.

### **Thursday October 10**

### **Saturday, October 12**

#### *Succulent Wreath Workshop*

SAVE THE DATE. Details in Fall Members' Newsletter.

### **Saturday, October 19**

#### *Autumn Twilight Tour*

3:30 TO 6:30 PM

SAVE THE DATE. Details in Fall Members' Newsletter.

### **Tours**

Tours are offered at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM, Wednesday through Saturday between February 15 and November 15. Please call 805.969.9990 for reservations.