



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS ▯ VOLUME 23 NO. 3 ▯ SUMMER 2014

The Development of Lotusland's Horticulture Program OR "HOW WE GOT FROM THERE TO HERE" BY MICHAEL IVEN

MADAME GANNA WALSKA created Lotusland with dramatic displays featuring collections of exotic plants such as bromeliads, cacti, cycads, ferns and succulents. These often eclectic designs were developed by Madame and added to the existing estate garden with significant contributions from numerous designers. No doubt some were notable horticulturists (SB City Superintendent of Parks Ralph Stevens, Lockwood DeForest, Bill Paylen), but most worked as designers.

Lotusland was primarily a residence and the residential landscape maintenance crew had varying degrees of experience and professional expertise, based on their own practical knowledge, self-motivation and initiative. There was no training program to provide information about the new and often exotic plants that would eventually define Lotusland. A grounds foreman (a welder by trade and plant hobbyist) provided oversight of the day-to-day operations. Gardeners were assigned an area of responsibility and that's where they spent most of their time.

Trusted local companies undertook bigger projects like tree trimming, plant moving and garden construction. Ozzie Da Ros, Bruce Van Dyke, Griffin Tree and Landscape, to name a few, worked on numerous projects and consulted with Madame on work in the garden. Many became her trusted advisors.

Influences on grounds maintenance practices were numerous and, under these circumstances, a routine conventional approach to grounds care was the easiest program to manage. Scheduled applications of herbicides, pesticides and chemical fertilizers were the norm.

Charles Glass, grounds manager from 1971 to 1983, designed and supervised the installation of the cycad garden

Continued on page 2



SANTA BARBARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ralph T. Stevens (son of the original owner), horticulturist and landscape architect at Lotusland from 1946 to 1955.

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SANTA BARBARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lockwood de Forest was a landscape architect at Lotusland in the 1940s. His work included cactus and euphorbias in front of the house.

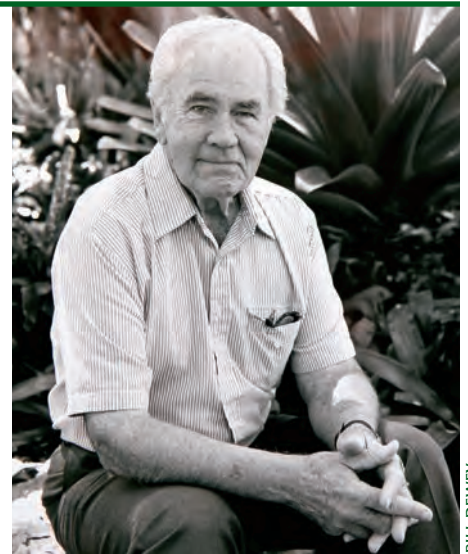
Continued from page 1

beginning in 1975. Charlie recognized the importance of plant curation and his typewritten notes formed the basis for Lotusland's plant record database still in use. He implemented some horticultural improvement projects, pulling gardeners out of their assigned areas to work on special projects. Charlie created raised beds in the cactus and aloe gardens to improve drainage and prescribed some targeted feeding programs, but his focus remained on design.

After Ganna Walska passed away in 1984, it was clear that the gardens and facilities needed substantial attention simply as a matter of preservation, and the possibility of public visitation needed to be considered. At that time, more crew projects were organized to tame overgrown areas, provide ground support for a newly hired certified tree trimmer and lower the hedges to a manageable height throughout the property.

The crew was organized into teams that worked together one day a week on special projects, integrating members of the grounds staff and replacing the segregation of previous years. Some gardeners resigned, and new staff members were hired based on their grounds maintenance experience. Although there was never a horticultural mandate, the grounds crew began preparing for public visitation at the same time, responding to deteriorating plant health. At this time, we began to do some soil testing.

Lotusland's affiliation with the American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta (now called the American Public Gardens Association) began in



BILL DEWEY

Bill Paylen worked at Lotusland starting in 1968. He designed the original fern garden and its renovation and extension.

January 1987. Staff attended local workshops and national seminars looking for information wherever we could find it, discussing ways to adapt new agricultural practices to our own situation. We installed fertilizer injection pumps on our automatic irrigation systems to micro-dose feedings over time and started a small-scale composting program. The crew performed new, albeit conventional, methods prescribed to correct obvious deficiencies. Ironically, we had crewmembers growing organic vegetables in their home gardens, but working at a site regularly exposed to toxic products.

Lotusland had the mindset to make changes and an Integrated Pest Management program (I.P.M.), an environmentally sensitive approach using methods with the least possible hazards, was initiated. As public visitations began in 1993, applications were scheduled for non-tour days. Many new strategies were being explored and personal connections were made with the County of Santa Barbara Agricultural Department's entomologist and plant pathologist. A local farm supply company helped us set up an irrigation injection system to deliver N-phuric (urea/sulphuric acid) through irrigation lines to lower soil pH in selected areas. We began purchasing beneficial insects to help control pests and started planting cover crops to attract more beneficial insects. We discussed oak trees, palms and soils with University of California Extension Farm Advisors. The appearance of some plants improved for short periods of time, but it would never last. Overall,

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.



Charles Glass walks down the main drive with Ganna Walska in the mid 1970s.

the toxicity of our inputs was decreasing, but plant health was not improving to our satisfaction. Plant health care was changing, but not really improving and we knew it.

In 1997 two of us attended a Sustainable Tree Care Conference at UCLA. The conference was billed as "An Intensive Course in Soil Fertility, Tree Health and Insect/Disease Resistance." Presentations over three days included talks on mycorrhizae, agronomy and soil fertility, foliar nutrition, organic



The cassette tapes from the transformational UCLA conference that helped form Lotusland's horticulture program.

orchards, tree ecology, compost/humus and beneficial organisms. The timing was perfect for us—we were primed for this information.

We took pages and pages of notes and bought 24 cassette tapes of the UCLA presentations. Most importantly, we began to establish relationships with people who had information we could use to improve Lotusland's horticultural program. Those relationships continue to this day and have helped us develop a very successful plant health care program that is dynamic and responsive to changing conditions.

On the way back to Santa Barbara from the conference at UCLA, John Lafleur, Corey Welles' predecessor, and I decided that on the following Monday



John Lafleur started his Lotusland career in 1970 and eventually served as the plant health care manager until he retired in 2006.

we would tell the crew, "That's it. No more chemical pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers." So that's what we did. We made a commitment to encourage, not battle against, natural processes, and plant health at Lotusland just keeps getting better.

It took awhile, maybe 40 years, but Lotusland finally has a broad range of horticultural resources and advisors that, you could say, compliment the many designers that helped Madame Walska create this fantastic garden.

Director's Letter

AS THE DROUGHT continues, many of you are asking how the plant collections of Lotusland are faring and how we are managing the gardens with the water restrictions. The good news is that Lotusland is in fine shape because the intelligent use of water is a critical aspect of our sustainable gardening model. Water conservation starts with healthy soil. Adding composts and mulches to the mineral content of soil improves the structure of the soil so it retains moisture longer. Composts and mulches, along with organic fertilizers and compost teas, feed and build the microbial life within soil, increasing the availability of nutrients to plants. All this adds up to healthier plants, and healthy plants in moisture-retaining soil are better adapted to tolerating stress from pest and disease infestations and drought.

Lotusland irrigates the garden from a well and reservoir system we own. We do not use Montecito Water District

supplies to irrigate. Even so, Lotusland has a long record of self-imposed water rationing. It is a precious and sometimes scarce resource in the Mediterranean climate in which we live, so we want to maximize our water supply and protect the community aquifer. We closely monitor the condition of our well and reservoir to be certain, at all times, of our available water supply. We also closely monitor soil moisture throughout the gardens by boring soil samples to examine the depth and degree of moisture. But long before the drought was officially announced, we reduced irrigation where we determined the reduction will not compromise the health of the plant collections. The reduction in irrigation requires an increase in monitoring, so the garden staff conducts daily soil bores to decide exactly when to irrigate and for how long.

Ultimately, we have reduced our irrigation by 25%. This is no small feat,



Gwen Stauffer

given that we have always been conservative with our water use. Lotusland's soil, made rich and alive using organic materials, helps us stretch our water and sustain the plant collections, many of which are rare and endangered.

To learn more about Lotusland's soil-building practices, read Corey Welles' article on page 7.

Warm regards,
Gwen L. Stauffer

SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE

LotusFest!

SATURDAY, JULY 12 • 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:

Tastings from Santa Barbara County's premier vintners and brewers:

Carina Cellars, Daniel Gehrs Wines, Demetria Estate, Firestone Walker Brewing Co., Island Brewing Company, Jaffurs Wine Cellars, Kenneth Volk Vineyards, Labyrinth Winery, Lumen Wines, Municipal Winemakers, Riverbench Winery, Roblar Winery, Santa Barbara Winery, Toucan Wines, Whitcraft Winery

Delectable hors d'oeuvres • Smooth jazz • Lotus lore galore • Lotus viewing

Tickets are \$95 for Lotusland members and \$105 for nonmembers.
To register for this pleasurable afternoon, please call 805.969.9990.

COLLECTIONS NEWS

Specimen Cactus and Plumeria

TWO FABULOUS NEW specimen plants have been added to the garden. One is a spectacular cardon cactus (*Pachycereus pringlei*) that is nearly 15 feet high. The cardon is adapted to the harsh climate of Baja California and, on the mainland, also grows in the



Cardon cactus, *Pachycereus pringlei*.

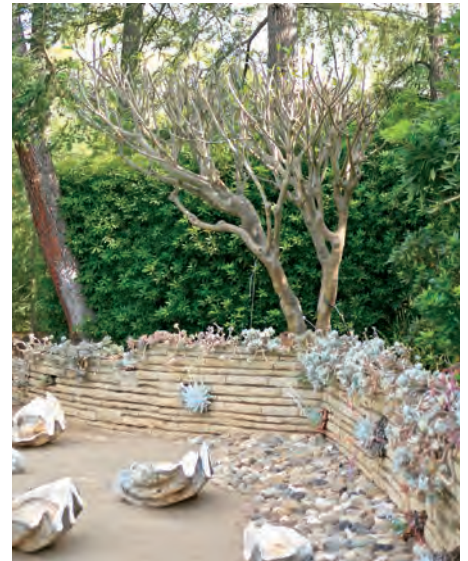
Mexican state of Sonora. It grows in alluvial soils and can be the dominant resident of large areas. Many cardons reach heights of 30 feet or more and after many years feature a multitude of branches. The newcomer at Lotusland is prominently displayed in front of the house just outside the motor court. We are grateful to Christopher Toomey for this generous donation to the garden.

The other donation is a species or selection of *Plumeria* (we'll have to wait and see what color its flowers are). It arrived in a very large box in a dormant, leafless state. We are allowing it to rest in place before removing the wooden slats and further disturbing its roots. Now that warm weather has arrived, we expect it to come to life and find its protected spot by the swimming pool a suitable location. Plumeria flowers are also called frangipani and the scent has been used in many perfumes. Generously donated by Lynda Weinman and Bruce Heavin.

Luckily for Lotusland, the donors of

both plants were able and willing to provide transportation and the heavy equipment required to move them to their new homes here. Without their help, it would not have been possible to accept such large specimens.

—Virginia Hayes



New plumeria behind the pool wall.

The Galapagos Islands—A Natural Laboratory

THANKS TO A GENEROUS travel grant provided by Mr. Michael Towbes, I was able to travel to the Galapagos Islands at the beginning of March this year. My goal on the trip was to see as much of the flora of the islands as possible, especially the cacti. Lotusland is privileged to have nine different cacti from the Galapagos as part of the Dunlap cactus collection.

The Galapagos, 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador and straddling the equator, are well known not only for unusual animals, but also the notoriety of Charles Darwin's visit to the islands in 1835. His observations had a great effect on the development of his theory of evolution by natural selection. Although the animals usually get top billing, the flora of the islands is quite diverse and extremely unique. Many of the plants on the Galapagos are endemic—found nowhere else on the planet.

There is a great diversity of cacti on the islands, with different species and varieties found on different islands or parts of islands. Many of the cacti have developed an arborescent habit, growing to massive tree-like proportions. It's theorized that the plants developed this morphology in response to constant herbivory, mostly from tortoises and, to a lesser extent, iguanas.

I began my trip on easternmost San Cristobal Island, where you can see *Opuntia megasperma* var. *orientalis* (tree prickly pear cactus) and *Jasminocereus thouarsii* var. *thouarsii* (candelabra cactus) growing along with *Gossypium darwinii*, or Darwin's cotton, and many other



Gossypium darwinii, Darwin's cotton, on San Cristobal Island.

interesting plants. At higher altitude, one will find *Opuntia megasperma* var. *mesophytica* growing in this slightly more moist environment.

Upon arrival to Santa Cruz Island, the touristic hub of the Galapagos and home to the Darwin Research Station, one is immediately greeted by cliffs lined with magnificent specimens of *Opuntia echios* var. *gigantea* and *Jasminocereus thouarsii* var. *delicatus*. A trip to Los Gemelos (The Twins), a pair of collapsed volcanic craters in the highlands, allows temporary escape from the heat of the lowlands and is a fantastic opportunity to visit an amazing *Scalesia* forest. *Scalesia* (daisy tree) is a genus in the Asteraceae (sunflower family) that is endemic to the Galapagos with approximately 19 species and varieties. In this area of near constant moisture, the *Scalesia* trees are festooned with epiphytes such as mosses and lichens, the diminutive *Peperomia galapagensis*, the orchid *Epidendrum spicatum* and the bromeliad *Racinaea* (*Tillandsia*) *insularis*, among other things.

Also on my itinerary were South

Plaza Island and Santa Fe Island. South Plaza Island has a nice population of the stout *Opuntia echios* var. *echios*, which grow along with *Sesuvium edmonstonei*, an endemic ice plant that takes on a fiery red hue. Growing on Santa Fe is one of the most massive of all the cacti in the Galapagos—*Opuntia echios* var. *barringtonensis*. Along with this plant, which is endemic just to Santa Fe, the Santa Fe iguana (*Conolophus pallidus*) is also endemic to this small island.

On one of the westernmost islands, Isabela, I found *Opuntia echios* var. *inermis* and *Jasminocereus thouarsii* var. *sclerocarpus* forming extremely dense stands along with shrubs like *Bursera graveolens*, *Darwiniothamnus tenuifolius* (margarita de Darwin), *Scutia spicata* (espino) and *Scalesia affinis* (lechoso). Bathed by the cool Cromwell current, Isabela and neighboring Fernandina Island are home to the endemic Galapagos penguin and the world's only flightless cormorant.

Seeing nine different cacti in habitat and many others as preserved specimens at the Darwin Research Station, I was able to return to Lotusland and positively identify the Galapagos cacti in the cactus garden, some of which were unidentified and others misidentified. Of the 13 main islands and more than a hundred smaller islands, this trip was literally "just the tip of the iceberg" in terms of exploring the Galapagos.

—Paul Mills

See Paul's Galapagos presentation at the volunteer meeting on August 18. Lotus Keepers attend free; \$45 for members.



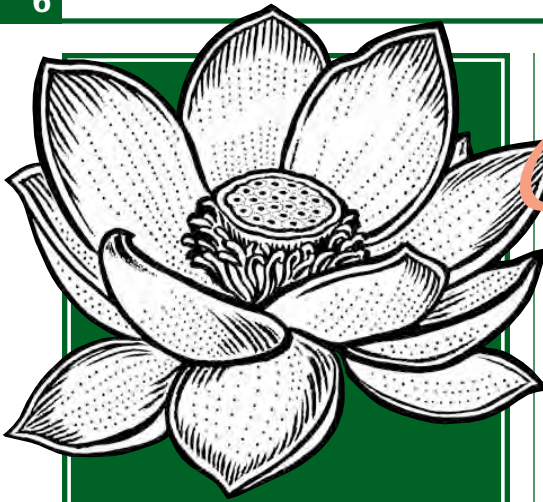
A massive individual of *Opuntia echios* var. *gigantea* on Santa Cruz.



Peperomia galapagensis and *Epidendrum spicatum* growing epiphytically on *Scalesia*, Los Gemelos, Santa Cruz.



Brilliant red *Sesuvium edmonstonei* growing among *Opuntia echios* var. *echios* on South Plaza.



The LOTUS SOCIETY

LUNCHEON HONORS MEMBERS OF THE LOTUS SOCIETY

ON A DAY that started with morning fog but turned into warm sunshine and spectacular views of the Channel Islands, we thanked and celebrated our members of *The Lotus Society* with a special recognition luncheon. Held at the beautiful home and gardens of Lotusland trustee Connie Pearcy and her husband John, more than 80 members enjoyed delicious food and wine along with lively and fun conversations.

The Lotus Society is now in its 14th year with 137 visionary members who understand the critical need to build Lotusland's endowment. These very special supporters have made planned or outright gifts of \$10,000 or more to Lotusland's restricted endowment.

For more information about *The Lotus Society*, please contact Lotusland's Director of Development, Anne Dewey, at 805.969.3767, extension 105.

PHOTOS BY NELL CAMPBELL



Wilson Quarré, Lotus Society Chair Peggy Wiley, host and hostess John and Connie Pearcy, Lotusland Executive Director Gwen Stauffer.



Lifetime Honorary Trustee Arthur R. Gaudi with Hania P. Tallmadge, Madame Walska's niece.



Linda and Dennis Sullivan.



Lotusland Trustee Ian Fisher with new Lotus Society members Ann and Robert Benham.



Lynne Kirst and Lynn Matteson.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE LEGACY GIFT!

MEMBERS OF *THE LOTUS SOCIETY* enjoyed a private tour of *Ganna Walska: Enemy of the Average* with exhibition Curator and

Director of Public Programs Dorothy Shaner. The exhibition paid homage to Madame Walska's incredible spirit that put her on the front page of newspapers

around the world for many decades. Her life was celebrated and portrayed using music, photography, couture, memorabilia and never-before-made-public collections from her personal life.

The Lotus Society is also not your average group! 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* are recognized on the Wall of Honor at the Visitor Center, which was recently engraved with those who joined *The Lotus Society* in 2013.

We welcome and thank two new member of *The Lotus Society*: Jeffrey F. Romano and Stan A. Shayer.



Bernadine and Herb Aldwinckle.



Ron and Gus Harris, Lynda and Bud Stuart.

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Building Sustainable Gardens

IT IS 7 O'CLOCK in the morning, and one of Lotusland's gardeners has opened a bag of organic fertilizer containing alfalfa, kelp, fish and soybean meals that he will apply to the soil in his garden area. The label reads of crude protein, fat and other food measures. It sounds like health food and that's exactly what it is—health food for soil organisms. Garden soil is not inert. It teems with life, and nurturing a rich soil biodiversity through the application of organic compounds is the cornerstone to building a sustainable garden.

The list of organic products needed for a sustainable garden isn't long. Compost, mulches, organic fertilizers and some insect attracting plants will do the job. However, there are several key principles to successful sustainable gardening.

PRINCIPLE #1: FEED THE SOIL ORGANISMS AND THE SOIL ORGANISMS WILL FEED THE PLANTS

SOIL ORGANISMS FEED on organic compounds in the soil, breaking down and releasing nutrients the plants need but cannot extract from the soil themselves. A healthy soil food web of organisms breaking down organic matter into a form available for nutrient uptake by plants' roots improves the fertility of the soil and the vigor of the plants. Chemical (inorganic) fertilizers can feed a plant temporarily, but only organic compounds can build soil biodiversity and maintain nutrient levels evenly throughout the growing season, while also suppressing plant diseases. Applied generously once or twice a year, organic products build soil biology in a way no chemical fertilizer can. In fact, chemical



Bee on a Borage flower (*Borago officinalis*) in one of 11 Lotusland insectaries.

fertilizers can sterilize your soil by killing the soil organisms.

PRINCIPLE #2: BUILD A ROBUST INSECT ECOLOGY FOR BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF PESTS

INCREASING THE NUMBER and variety of insects in the landscape may seem counterintuitive, but providing a habitat for beneficial insects will help control invasions of plant pests. Native plants are especially good at attracting beneficial insects and providing them with habitat and the quality and quantity of pollen and nectar the beneficial insects need for part of their life cycle. A diverse planting of natives will attract predatory insects to help protect the garden, as well as provide a food source for other garden protectors (like birds, lizards and spiders) and pollinators (like bees, butterflies and birds).

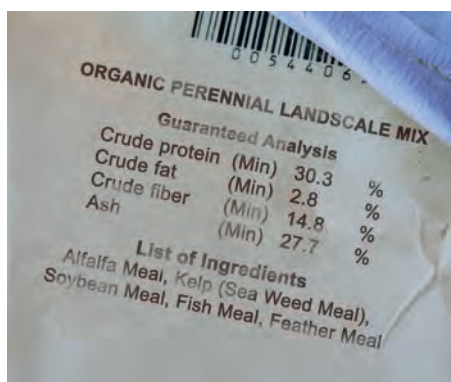
PRINCIPLE #3: GIVE UP THE CHEMICALS

CHEMICAL PESTICIDES KILL both pest and beneficial insects indiscriminately, so even a small dose of pesticides will ruin a sustainable garden's biological balance and biodiversity advantage. Even the drip from pesticides sprayed on plants will contaminate the soil and kill soil organisms. Compost teas applied as foliar sprays help suppress fungal diseases and increase plant vigor, so if the plants are attacked by pests, they can outgrow the infestation.

PRINCIPLE #4: USE COMPOST AND MULCHES IN THE LANDSCAPE

COMPOST WORKED INTO the soil is an excellent natural amendment that improves soil conditions by feeding and increasing soil organisms and increasing soil moisture retention. Organic mulches applied as a top dressing suppress weeds, prolong soil moisture, help control erosion and improve soil conditions as they break down over time.

A sustainable garden with complex ecological relationships among the various characters in the biological system is more robust and less vulnerable to the stresses we may place on it. Garden maintenance practices like shearing plants, raking soil, blowing leaves and walking through garden beds and on lawns can suppress the natural processes functioning in a healthy garden. Any negative input can echo throughout a sustainable system and require time to repair. All landscapes, no matter how they are used or maintained, can be improved over time by following sustainable principles. —Corey Welles



Label on fertilizer bag looks like health food ingredients.



Corey Welles working compost into the soil for a more robust insectary bloom.



Jason Bonham preparing a mixture of compost tea for the fern garden.

Members' Family Day, May 31, 2014

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THOMAS & NANCY CRAWFORD

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

Crawford family members take a break from an afternoon of fun and games.



The traditional annual bonding at the crafts table.



Drumming in the theater garden with Panzumo.



Photographer Bob Debris captures the moment - mechanical cat and all.



A frighteningly adorable masterpiece created by face painting artist Anji Lawson.



Beautiful smiles and a beautiful afternoon at Lotusland.

We Live in a Desert, Let's Be Water Wise!

AWFORD, JR. IN HONOR OF THEIR GRANDCHILDREN



Artist Kathy Mills' giant mural was "enhanced" by numerous young artists.



Ducks floating down the runnel prove to be irresistible.



Members' Family Day is even more fun when shared with a friend.



A beautiful bracelet in the making.



Fun for the whole family on the Lotusland main lawn.



Arriving in style up the main drive. Madame would be elated.



Ready for a family picnic and fun ahead.

Exceptional Plants: Lotusland Auction and Sale

PLANNING IS NOW UNDERWAY for another fabulous plant auction and sale on Saturday, September 20. The first plants to hit the auction list are propagations from Lotusland plants and, as to be expected, there are some interesting and rare specimens.

There will be an intriguing member of the sage family native to Madagascar called *Tetradenia*. This shrub has beautiful softly felted leaves. An unusual crassula that is rarely encountered at nurseries, *Crassula streyi*, will be offered. This succulent plant has leaves that are



Crassula streyi—a succulent with leaves that are green on top and burgundy on the bottom.



Begonia gehrtii—a begonia with crumpled leaves.

glossy green on top and deep burgundy red on the underside. It prefers shade, a major selling point for anyone wanting succulents for darker corners of the garden. Signature begonias from the collection will include *B. gehrtii*, which has extremely crumpled leaves and the very frilly *B. 'Madame Queen'* among others. From the giant leaves of *Xanthosoma* (a relative of the taro plant) to the diminutive ones of a succulent *Peperomia kinnachii*, there will be a wide variety of plant forms to choose from. Subtropical aroids like *Anthurium water-maliense* and desert-loving aloes such as

Aloe confusa as well as cactuses and palms will round out the list. Look for updates on the website starting July 1.

Guests will be treated to specialty cocktails, wine, beer and sumptuous hors d'oeuvres to keep the mood festive. The live auction will once again feature the talents of auctioneer Jeff Chemnick, and for the impulse buyers there will be an expanded selection of fine plants available to "buy now."

For ticket information or to donate a specimen plant, contact Courtney Tentler at 805.969.3767, extension 116.



Aloe confusa—an aloe that is unique in that the stalks are somewhat pendant.



Visitors enjoy the magical afternoon light in the water garden.

Summer Twilight Tour SATURDAY, AUGUST 23 • 3:00 TO 5:30 PM

THE VERY POPULAR Twilight Tour invites you to enjoy the waning days of summer in the garden at Lotusland. Members and their guests can explore the garden on their own or choose a docent led tour.

Begin the tour with a cool beverage or glass of wine in a commemorative Lotusland wine glass. Enjoy a light

snack and refill your glass in the main residence's sunken drawing room from 4:00 to 4:45 PM.

The magical light of the season combines with the blooms and colors of the garden to create a very memorable event. Cost is \$65 members, \$75 nonmembers. Reservations are required. Please call 805.969.9990.

New Planters at the Garden Shop

REPlicas OF THE CARVED stone planters flanking the front door of the house at Lotusland have been artfully reproduced by Debbie and Doug Hild, the same craftspeople who made the Lotusland grotesque replicas. The bas-relief scene depicts Adam and Eve being expelled from the Garden of Eden. The exquisite planters measure 21"x10" and 7½" tall. The two 4" legs are included. These unique objects retail in the garden shop for \$650 (less your 10% Member discount!).



Cycad Summit

ON SATURDAY, APRIL 26, Lotusland hosted a Cycad Summit. The presentations captivated the audience as research was presented on these fascinating plants that have lived on earth for 250 million years. This educational event was open to cycad enthusiasts, growers and researchers. Organized by Lotusland Research Associate Jeff Chemnick, the roster of speakers was wide-ranging and included internationally known cycad researchers.

"THE AFRICAN ENDEMIC GENUS ENCEPHALARTOS: THE WHERE & WHAT OF THE RAREST PLANTS ON EARTH" Philip Rousseau, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

OF THE TEN currently recognized genera, *Encephalartos*, with 65 species and two subspecies, is the third largest cycad genus. It is endemic to Africa, with South Africa a diversity hotspot hosting over half of the diversity. The genus is arguably the most endangered cycad, as four species are currently classified as Extinct in the Wild, and approximately 50% are classified as endangered. Rousseau illustrated a systematic geographic-based look at these species showcasing the diversity within the genus.



Jeff Chemnick, Cristina Lopez-Gallego, Philip Rousseau.

"CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN FOR THE ZAMIA OF COLOMBIA" Cristina Lopez-Gallego, Universidad de Antioquia, Columbia

THE TROPICAL FORESTS of Colombia and Panama harbor the most *Zamia* species in the Neotropics. In Colombia, most species inhabit the understory of lowland rainforests, but a few species are found in other habitats like cloud forest, dry forest and even dry scrubland. The talk outlined the conservation action plan and discussed some of the conservation activities being planned.

"ENCEPHALARTOS HEENANII AND A POLLINATION SUCCESS STORY" Paul Mills, Assistant Curator, Ganna Walska Lotusland

LOTUSLAND HAS THREE mature *E. heenanii* in the garden, two of which have coned; a male plant and a female plant. An accounting of the pollination of the seed cones and the results were presented along with photographs of the plants, the cones and the progeny.

"IN SEARCH OF OLD FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD, A CYCAD TRAVELOGUE"

Jeremy Spath, Horticulturist and World Traveler

From the *Dioon sonorensis* (a rare cycad from Mexico) that grows near his doorstep to plants as far away as Vietnam and Nepal and Cuba, Spath's talk included some of the more unusual cycads he has searched for in the wild.

"MEXICAN CYCADS RARELY SEEN IN HABITAT" Jeff Chemnick

POSSESSING ONE OF the richest cycad floras on earth, Mexico is home to three genera and 54 species, many of which



Jeremy Spath, Horticulturist and World Traveler.

have only recently been described. Jeff's presentation offered a look at many of these taxa, most of which are rarely seen in habitat or even in cultivation with an emphasis on recently described species that are largely unknown in the cycad world other than by name.

"DNA IDENTIFICATION OF CYCADS, A LAYMAN'S GUIDE" Philip Rousseau

This talk illustrated how molecular identification works, how far it has progressed in cycads and its limitations. Cycads are very important study subjects due to their evolutionary position as forerunner to all other seed plants, their highly endangered conservation status and their horticultural appeal. Their stasis in form also allows inference to be made about fossil species.



Walker Young, Assistant Curator at Ruth Bancroft Garden; Jeremy Spath; Eric Anderson, Anderson's Seed Co.

In Memoriam: Loran Whitelock • 1930–MAY 27, 2014

LOTUSLAND AND THE WORLD of cycad collectors and growers lost a dear friend recently. Loran M. Whitelock developed a fascination for plants from around the world that soon focused on the unique and sometimes bizarre cycads. He travelled extensively and collected cycads and other exotic plants that he used to landscape his own garden and those of many clients. His close study of this group of ancient plants culminated in

the publication of *The Cycads* in 2002. This comprehensive guide to the history, taxonomy, ethnobotany and horticulture of cycads became a must-have for gardeners and collectors alike. A visit to his garden was like travelling halfway around the world to a lush paradise and it often included a stiff drink and many a wry joke.

Among his clients was the passionate and sometimes willful Madame Ganna Walska. Her cycad collection was

improved in many ways by the plants that Whitelock was able to procure in his travels. They did not always agree on the details, but her garden would not be the stellar display of cycads that it is without his assistance and his willingness to negotiate her whims. Whitelock continued to be a resource for information and plants after Madame Walska's death and the Lotusland staff who knew him and worked with him are deeply saddened by his passing.



Craig Morgan

CRAIG JOINED THE docent training program in 2009 to improve his understanding of plants, meet new people and share his deep appreciation of Lotusland. Craig has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Cal Poly plus two Masters degrees, and this lifelong educator served as the Principal of San Marcos High School from 2003 to 2008.

Craig and his wife Debbie live in

Ventura, where he collects plants and enjoys the challenges of creating a garden habitat that thrives in a coastal environment. His garden contains more than 100 different varieties of plants including a palm canopy of *Archontophoenix*, *Dyopsis*, *Hedyscepe*, *Howea*, *Rhopalostyllis* and *Syagrus* species. His collection includes several *Chamaedorea* species including a grove of more than 40 seedlings of *C. pulmosa*. Varieties of *Michelia*, *Plumeria* and various flowering vines provide a subtle fragrance to the garden, and his water features and the surf combine to create soothing sounds.

Craig's favorite Lotusland gardens are the fern and water gardens with an abundant variety of plants combined with interesting architectural elements. Craig is the first docent to use his iPad to visually enhance visitors' understanding of Lotusland and to fully illustrate

the ever-changing seasonal landscape of the garden. Craig recently attended Lotusland's Cycad Summit to satisfy his personal curiosity and to improve his expertise as a docent.

Craig enjoys travel, fishing, working on his beach house and his old Porsche, and, of course, working in his garden. Craig and Debbie have a son and daughter-in-law living in Tiburon with three beautiful granddaughters. Their daughter is a teacher in Goleta and coaches the Santa Barbara Swim Club.

Craig also serves as a Lotusland Tour Facilitator, helps to train new docents and lends his expertise to our many educational visits. This lifelong learner enjoys expanding his garden knowledge by interacting with Lotusland's staff and his fellow docents. Thanks Craig, you are an asset to our team.

—Kitty Thomassin

Lotusland Graduates 27 New Docents

GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND recently graduated 27 new docents. After completing a rigorous 14-week training program, this group of enthusiastic and dedicated men and women are ready to lead tours of Lotusland and its various gardens,

interpreting the exotic plant collections for visitors and sharing the history of the garden.

The extensive docent training program provides top-notch lectures, classes and training. The next docent training program begins in fall 2015.



FROM LEFT: Gwen Guddal, Linda Burns, Katie Hatch, Sally Hyman, Kathy Snell, Pamela Hawes, Sharon Barnett, Karen Kasaba, Christine Gress, Donna Kirkmire, Caroline Chamberlin, Donna Stovesand, Celeste Pearlman, Renee de Jong, Marcia Keen, Annie Athar, Cristi Walden, Holly Sherwin, Carla Lejade, Nancy Melekian. BACK ROW: Ron Garber, Al Ronyecz, Becca Garbett, Dave Messick. NOT PICTURED: Katherine Checkie, Jan Wesemann, Yumi Wisdom.

Thank You to Our

CORPORATE GARDEN STEWARD

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Hutton Wilkinson Delights at a Sold-out Lotusland Event

ON MARCH 8, Hutton Wilkinson captivated the audience at Lotusland with his lively stories and fascinating images in a presentation called *Tony Duquette and Ganna Walska: Both Enemies of the Average*.

Wilkinson's life has been immersed in decorating, jewelry and Hollywood and all the glamour associated with this fashionable troika. On occasion, Madame

Ganna Walska consulted with and purchased jewelry from her friend Tony Duquette and his business partner Hutton Wilkinson.

Wilkinson's dialog offered a glimpse of an era in which two extraordinary figures, Ganna Walska and Tony Duquette, influenced not only each other, but also the fashions and designs of their time.



Hutton Wilkinson expounding on Ganna Walska's sense of design and how Tony Duquette may have influenced many of Lotusland's fantasy elements.



Dawnridge: Spectacular Beverly Hills Design Showcase

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

DESIGN ICON Tony Duquette and his wife Elizabeth built Dawnridge in 1949. Current owners are Duquette's protégé and business partner for over 30 years, Hutton Wilkinson, and his wife Ruth. They maintain Dawnridge as a tribute to the Duquettes; they purchased the home after the Duquettes' deaths in order to "save its life."

The original house was a 30'x30' box, designed by Tony with noted Los Angeles architect Casper Ehmcke. Many unique architectural elements include an enclosed indoor terrace with a mirrored ceiling, over-sized gold-plated antique lobsters, carvings from Southeast Asia, two 18th-century Venetian dolphin sculptures, red-lacquered Queen Anne chairs, an abalone and amethyst crystal chandelier and an abundance

of leopard vinyl cloth. This half-acre property features a multi-level garden with more than 200 different plant species, numerous pagodas, a small lake, an Indian temple and cantilevered pavilions.

Numerous pieces of Hutton Wilkinson's jewelry will be both on display and for sale.

Lotusland members have a unique opportunity to tour the residence and garden at Dawnridge. Transportation from Lotusland to Beverley Hills and a catered lunch are included in this memorable outing. Cost is \$275 for members, \$300 for nonmembers. Please call 805.969.9990 for reservations.

Please note: This is a private residence; there is no disabled access and comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

Volunteer Opportunities at Lotusland

More than 250 volunteers share their time and talents with Lotusland throughout the year, leading tours of the garden, staffing the Garden Shop, maintaining the grounds and assisting with special events and office tasks.

Lotusland is always in need of enthusiastic volunteers, eager to assist in the operation of this world-class organization.

Contact Kitty Thomassin for more information about volunteering at Lotusland: 805.969.3766, extension 112 or by email at kthomassin@lotusland.org.

Help Make Lotusland's Wishes Come True

TO DONATE FUNDS for any of these items, please call Anne Dewey, Lotusland's Director of Development, at 805.969.3767, extension 105 or email her at adewey@lotusland.org. Thank you!

🐼 NEW WHEELCHAIR

A new all-terrain wheelchair suitable for narrow garden paths. \$1,500

🐼 REPLACEMENT ICE MACHINE

A replacement for our old ice machine to bring us to full capacity for events. \$1,800

Lotusland Members

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2014

CORPORATE GARDEN STEWARD

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GARDEN ADVOCATE

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Renewing Lotus Keeper Members MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2014

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Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2014

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Garden Club of Santa Barbara

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Morgan Stanley Employee Charitable Fund
 directed by Debra Ann Galin

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 David & Judy Messick, *pair of cement frogs*

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.



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Summer and Fall 2014 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 12

LotusFest!

2:00 TO 5:00 PM

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

Sunday, July 27

Lotusland Celebrates:

Once Upon a Time

4:00 TO 8:00 PM.

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

Monday, August 18

*Galapagos Expedition Presentation
by Paul Mills*

9:30 AM

Lotus Keepers attend free; members and guests \$45. See details on page 5. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Thursday, August 21

*Dawnridge: Spectacular Beverly Hills
Design Showcase Tour*

See details on page 13. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, August 23

Summer Twilight Tour

3:00 TO 5:30 PM

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

Saturday, September 6

*Behind-the-Scenes Tour
with Virginia Hayes*

2:30 TO 5:30 PM

Lotus Keeper level members attend free; members and their guests \$45. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, September 20

*Exceptional Plants:
Lotusland Auction and Sale*

2:00 TO 5:00 PM

See details on page 10.

Tours

Tours are offered at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM, Wednesday through Saturday from February 15 to November 15. Call 805.969.9990 for reservations.