



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS  VOLUME 10 NO. 2  SUMMER 2001

Cycad Diary IN SEARCH OF *CERATOZAMIAS*

By VIRGINIA HAYES and JEFF CHEMNICK

A LANDMARK PARTNERSHIP convened this January when Ganna Walska Lotusland, the Montgomery Botanical Center in Miami, Florida, and Mexico's Institute of Ecology in Xalapa, Veracruz, mounted a joint expedition into the wilds of Mexico to collect cycads. The team consisted of Dr. Terrence Walters, Executive Director, and Dr. Tim Gregory, Trustee, from Montgomery Botanical Center; Dr. Andrew P. Vovides, Director of Jardín Botánico Clavijero in Xalapa and several of his staff; and Curator Virginia Hayes and cycad expert Jeff Chemnick from Lotusland.

For only the second time since 1977, when Mexico joined the signatories of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), Mexican researchers paired up with their American colleagues to assess the status and distribution of many of Mexico's native cycads and make collections for the rare plants' study and protection. The initial intent was to visit and collect from as many cycad localities as possible within a two-week period. Mexican authorities finally issued the collecting permits after numerous applications and many lengthy delays. In fact, the trip has been postponed several times over the last four years while Terrence steered the application process through a gauntlet of seemingly endless administrative obstacles. At long last, we were able to schedule our trip to Mexico from January 9th to the 24th this year.

Continued on page 2



VIRGINIA HAYES

*These residents of the village of Tampemoche in San Luis Potosi stand proudly by a plant of *Ceratozamia hildae* they had transplanted from its nearby habitat into their garden.*

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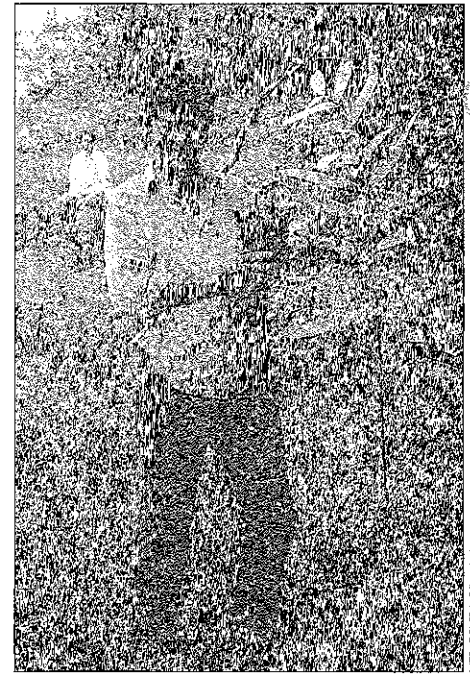
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From a background of resources and experience, a world-class team of cycad field workers was assembled. Montgomery Botanical Center acquires and maintains collections of cycads and palms of the world exclusively for botanical research. Their collections are based on population samples of sufficient size to approach the full extent of genetic diversity for a particular species. Lotusland's cycad collection is extensive and well-known, and our mission is to maintain and augment the collection for display, education, and research. The Institute of Ecology in Xalapa awards degrees in the biological sciences and maintains the Francisco Clavijero Botanic Garden, which holds the Mexican National Cycad Collection. Jeff and Tim have been actively working on the Mexican cycads for a number of years and have published descriptions of several new species with several more in preparation.

The trip had several goals. Foremost, it was important to visit as many populations of cycads as possible and to assess their current status and distribution. Many of these populations have never been cataloged or have been appraised only by their original discoverers many years ago.



VIRGINIA HAYES

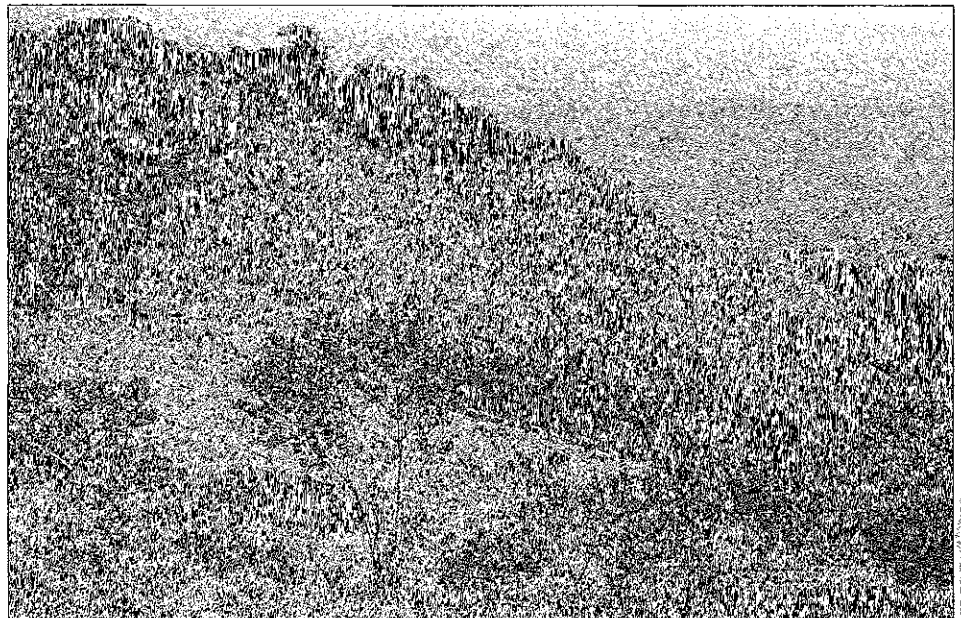
Miguel Angel Farrera (wife Claudia is in the background) holds a young plant and mature leaf of a Ceratozamia species he is in the process of describing and naming.

Ongoing habitat destruction is rampant in Mexico, as it is in many parts of the world. The ever-increasing pressure by a growing human population for food and housing is contributing to the deforestation. Impact on wild cycads also comes from collectors eager to own large, rare specimens. The value and popularity of cycads has increased greatly



TERRANCE WALTERS

Virginia Hayes holding a plant of an as-yet undescribed species of Ceratozamia.



VIRGINIA HAYES

Only remnants of the original forest remain at Cerro del Vigio, Veracruz, which in this case has been cleared for grazing livestock.



VIRGINIA HAYES

Jeff Chemnick peers through the dense forest growth after uncovering a *Zamia loddigesii*.

in recent years and a single plant might be worth the equivalent of a month's wages in the cane fields of its native country to the person who harvests it for sale. It is a daunting task to convince governments and local peoples throughout the world to preserve and protect their botanical treasures for generations to come. Mexico is aware of this problem and was one of the earliest countries to ratify the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity that came out of the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. (Although 180 countries have now ratified this treaty, the United States has not done so.)

The ultimate goal of plant conservation is to preserve a sustainable sample of the genetic diversity of a given population in its native site. Since this is often extremely difficult, it is vital to support an off-site (ex-situ) locality to ensure the biodiversity of a region's plants. Botanical gardens like Lotusland and the Xalapa garden and research facilities such as Montgomery are the best custodians for this purpose. Such collections are currently very rare anywhere in the world. Therefore, another important goal of

the trip was to collect plants and/or seeds from the wild and conserve them in the relative safety of these recognized institutions. The specimens can then be used by researchers studying the biology, taxonomy, and evolutionary relationships of cycads. To help reduce the pressure on wild cycad populations, the plants can be propagated and distributed to other scientific institutions and commercial growers as well.

Finally, it was the goal of both Montgomery and Lotusland to foster a working relationship with one of the few institutions in Mexico where cycad research is taking place. Our combined support of the Ecology Institute enabled six of their staff to spend one to four days each collecting plants and data for their own research as well as contributing to our efforts in the field. Funding for such trips is difficult to obtain in developing countries and it was our pleasure to assist the Institute and their scientists in this collaboration.

In order to put together the itinerary for this and future trips, Jeff and Tim researched historical data and searched exhaustively to find undocumented new localities of cycad populations, some of which contain undescribed species. Their



VIRGINIA HAYES

Terrence Walters holds a specimen of *Zamia furfuracea* dug from the sand dunes at Buena Vista, Veracruz.

research is an attempt to understand the distribution, taxonomy, and speciation processes of the Mexican cycads. They have followed clues for the existence of new species into the dim backrooms of museums around the world, sifting through the herbarium vouchers of long-forgotten collections. The memoirs of venerable travelers and explorers have been a good source of information, but



VIRGINIA HAYES

Ceratozamia whitelockiana shown here was described by Tim Gregory and Jeff Chemnick to honor Loran Whitelock, from whom Madame purchased many of her cycads in the 1970s.



often the most productive method of finding new cycad populations is to engage the cooperation of residents living in or near a likely habitat in the search. Through conversation and by showing leaf samples from other plants, locations of nearby cycad populations can often be obtained. Local churches in Mexico are also a good source of information since dried cycad leaves are very popular ornaments, especially around Easter.

Due to the logistical difficulties of trying to visit a large number of species in the three different genera that are widely distributed throughout Mexico, the trip focused on the genus *Ceratozamia*, which has less than 20 currently named species. To assess the current taxonomic and biogeographic status for each population visited, the team collected plants, leaf samples, and geographical data at each locality. The permit allowed each of the participating institutions to collect only three individual plants and 10 seeds of each taxon. Even so, several hours were needed at every locality to perform the necessary tasks of surveying, photographing, and collecting the plants and data. The information is of paramount importance since many of the populations we visited had never before been properly recorded.



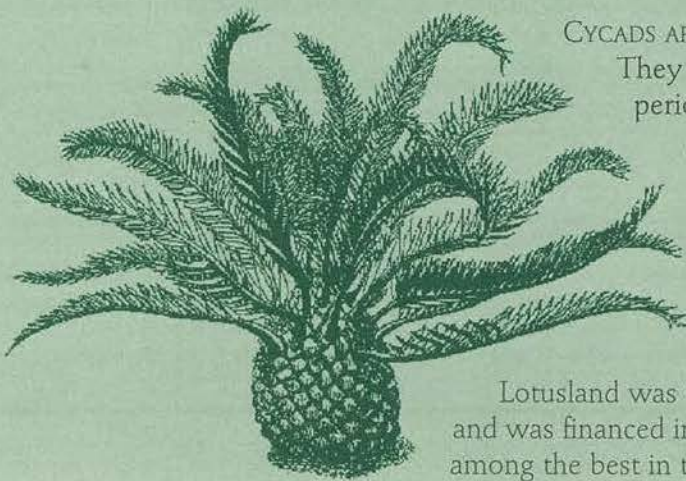
TERRENCE WALTERS

Our rental van was loaded to the roof with cycads and collecting equipment. Some "wavers" (cycad leaves kept to show local villagers in our search for locations) lean against the bumper.

In all, the team visited about 20 sites in the Mexican states of Vera Cruz, Tamaulipas, Hidalgo, San Luis Potosí, Querétaro, Tabasco, Chiapas, and Oaxaca. Collections of 17 populations of *Ceratozamia* plus seven *Zamia* and three *Dioon* that coincidentally occur in the same habitats were made. Seedlings of another six *Ceratozamia* species and one *Zamia* were donated by Miguel Angel Perez Farrera during a visit to his nursery at the University in Tuxtla Gutierrez,

Chiapas. Miguel Angel, who is a doctoral student there, has described several new species of *Ceratozamia* and has contributed to the published Flora of Chiapas. The extent of the collections we made and the quality of the collaborative effort far exceeded our expectations. And so, in spite of a few minor problems (to be expected while traveling), the trip was a huge success. We're looking forward to future collaborative field trips in search of the Mexican cycads!

Cycad Consciousness

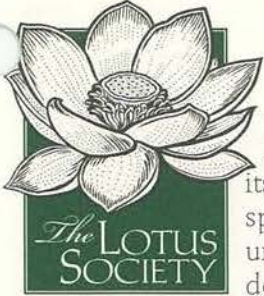


CYCADS ARE THE MOST PRIMITIVE living seed-bearing plants known. They reached their peak in the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods, 200–90 million years ago, sharing their ecological niche with dinosaurs. Plants growing today have changed little in their basic character, although none of the fossil species are still extant. These early cycads sometimes grew to giant proportions.

Today, botanists suspect there may be specimens thousands of years old in present-day colonies of cycads found in the wild. The cycad garden at Lotusland was the last major planting undertaken by Madame Walska and was financed in part by the sale of her jewels. The collection is ranked among the best in the world.

The Lotus Society

ENHANCING AND PRESERVING A UNIQUE BOTANICAL TREASURE



GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND, with its rare and exotic specimens and its unusual theme gardens, is unrivaled as a botanical treasure and favorite destination for visitors from the community and around the world. A broad range of audiences—including local schoolchildren—enjoy this garden that educates and delights.

But what can be done to ensure that the garden will thrive? To address this concern, a group of community leaders has launched a new initiative—called the Lotus Society—to enhance and preserve this unique botanical treasure.

“Today, a significant endowment is required to meet the rising expense of maintaining Madame Walska’s rare and unusual plant collections

and to continue valuable community programs promoting sustainable gardening, conservation, and horticultural research,” explains local attorney Arthur Gaudi, who chairs the Lotus Society Committee and has served in many capacities on Lotusland Foundation’s board of directors since 1984.

The Lotus Society encourages and recognizes visionaries who contribute \$10,000 or more to the Endowment Fund (either outright or through estate arrangements) to preserve Lotusland as a place of beauty and serenity for future generations to enjoy. Member benefits include invitations to annual Lotus Society events, recognition on Lotusland’s Wall of Honor, a memento of appreciation, and more.

Mr. Gaudi is joined on the Lotus Society Committee by board president Dr. Robert J. Emmons; board mem-

bers Carol L. Valentine, Merryl Brown, William Drewry, Stanya Owen, and Pamela Pesenti; Charles Fairbanks; Mark Fingerlin of Montecito Bank and Trust; Thomas Hugunin; financial Bernard C. Parent of Salomon Smith Barney; attorney Gerald B. Parent of Hatch and Parent; and Lotusland’s Executive Director, Steven Timbrook.

“Lotus Society Committee members and trained staff are available to meet with interested supporters and their advisors to structure creative gift arrangements that provide tax savings and lifetime income, while meeting their personal philanthropic interests,” explains Mr. Gaudi.

To receive a Lotus Society membership enrollment packet, including information on memorial and naming opportunities, please call Anne Dewey, Development Director, at 969-3767, ext. 105.

SAVE THE DATE

LOTUSLAND CELEBRATES THE 20's

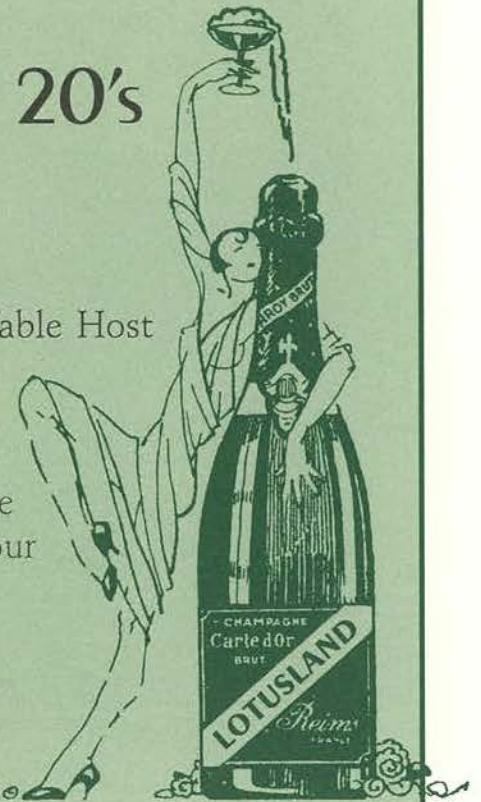
SUNDAY, July 29, 2001
4 TO 8 PM

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in supporting the event as a Patron Table Host with ten tickets (\$3,000) or as a Patron with two tickets (\$1,000), please contact Anne Dewey, Director of Development, at (805) 969-3767, ext. 105.

Patron Table Hosts and Patrons receive recognition on the invitation and program (if the donation is received prior to our print deadlines).

THE JAZZ AGE WAS WICKED AND MONSTROUS AND SILLY.
UNFORTUNATELY, I HAD A GOOD TIME.

—HEYWOOD BROWN





Sharing the Garden

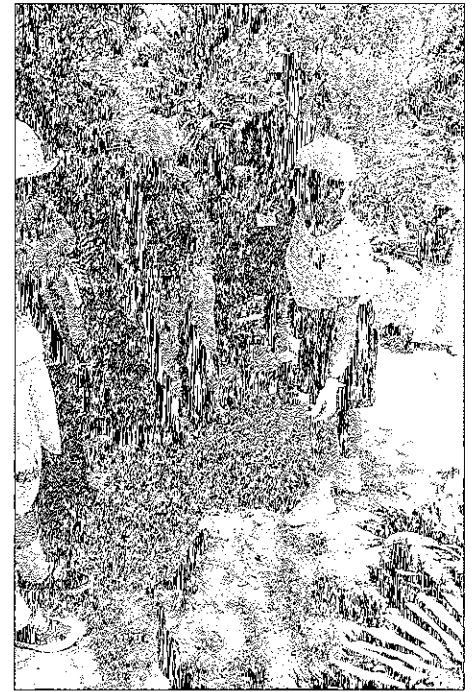
AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF DOCENTS AT LOTUSLAND

NO ONE WOULD DISPUTE Lotusland's claim that its docents are the finest. These very special people go through a rigorous (but fun) 14-week training course, conduct tours no matter what the weather, graciously welcome people from all over the world, adroitly circumnavigate any number of ongoing garden projects, and continually upgrade their historical and horticultural knowledge with monthly meetings and workshops. Although they come from quite diverse and fascinating backgrounds, the one thing they all have in common is...dedication!

Madame Walska generously opened her gardens to the public for charitable causes and to botanists and horticultural groups on special occasions, often leading these tours herself. The long-standing tradition of welcoming visitors to the estate we now know as Lotusland began long before Madame Walska acquired the property in 1941. The two previous owners generously shared the beauty of the estate with the public.

In the late 19th and the early 20th centuries, Mr. and Mrs. R. Kinton Stevens owned the estate now known as Lotusland (c. 1882-1916) and called it *Tanglewood*. It was a favored destination where guests admired an amazing collection of tropical and subtropical plants. Stevens frequently entertained ships' officers who would reciprocate by bringing him rare seeds or cuttings of plants they obtained while on voyages to far-off destinations around the globe.

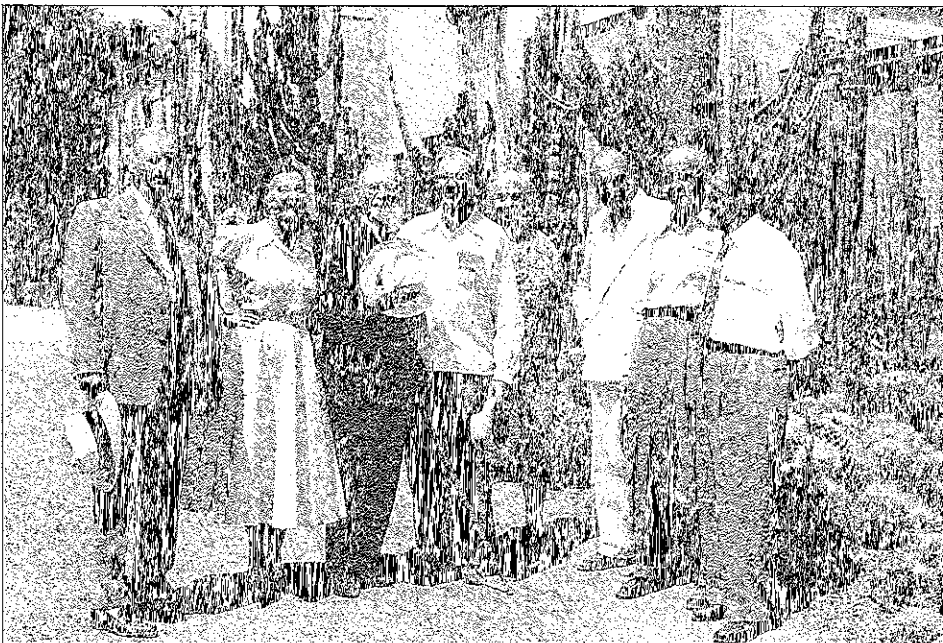
Summer garden tours were and still are a Santa Barbara tradition, and the next owners of the estate, the Gavit family, regularly opened the rechristened *Cuesta Linda* (c. 1920-1940) for these occasions during their tenure. Organized by the Santa Barbara Community Arts Association Plans and Planting Committee, these yearly garden tours were hugely popular. Benefiting community beautification and planting projects, these "charity tours" often drew on talented landscape architects and/or botanists and horticulturists in the community to participate. Boy Scouts were enlisted



Docent Joan Haber shares her botanical knowledge with visitors on a garden tour.

to help with directing guests, and members of the horticultural community served to guide people around the estate. Lotusland archival records show that the estate was included in these yearly tours from 1926 on, with venerable preservationist Pearl Chase acting as chairperson of the Plans and Planting Committee and Mrs. Lockwood deForest Jr. often helping to guide visitors around the several estates.

An admission "tag" was purchased at the Recreation Center (\$2 in 1965 included refreshments), and a transportation pass (\$1.25 in 1965) "for those without cars" could also be obtained. A choice was given for a morning tour or an afternoon tour, and reservations had to be made in advance. Visitors, guided by Boy Scouts, walked in the main gate on Sycamore Canyon Road, and cars were not allowed to enter the grounds. Boy Scouts asked visitors to park "off pavement" on Sycamore Canyon Road or at the Cold Spring



Santa Barbara's venerable preservationist, Pearl Chase (fourth from right), often assisted in Madame's tours.



School or Montecito Covenant Church parking lots. Often they were shuttled from other church parking lots in the vicinity. Parking on Sycamore Canyon Road might have posed problems for the neighborhood on a day with large numbers of visitors. Today visitors enter at the Cold Spring gate (built to accommodate Lotusland's official opening to the public in 1993), and Lotusland provides on-site parking, while adhering to strict guidelines for traffic flow and visitor numbers.

Madame Walska continued the tradition of charity tours and offered Lotusland as a setting for many host organizations. It was the responsibility of each hosting institution to organize logistics and find guides—people who might know something about horticulture or botany—who could donate their services on a weekend afternoon to lead tours. Members of the Horticultural Society, Men's Garden Club, or any number of other horticultural organizations would be pressed into service as docents.

Charity tours typically numbered anywhere from 750 to 1,000 people. However, one particular Sunday charity tour in 1982, two years before Madame Walska's death, brought 1,984 visitors to the garden.



Guests arrive at Sycamore Canyon gate for a charity tour at Lotusland in the fifties.



Madame Walska frequently obliged visitors by posing for photographs with them.

The sheer volume of people posed a real challenge to the docents, but they rose to the occasion and quickly executed a plan of action to make the best of the situation. In order to get everyone through the garden that day, they divided the visitors up into groups of 30 or 40 and calculated they had to complete the tour in 45 minutes. There was no time to answer questions, no time to deviate from the tour route, and they didn't dare linger over any one spot for fear of a critical-mass bottleneck.

During the 70s, Lotusland was closed to the public for several years

for major garden installation projects. Eager to share her new cycad garden, which was in the final stages of installation, Madame Walska reactivated charity tours in 1978 for a fund-raiser in support of Santa Barbara Beautiful's plan to buy 5,500 trees and plant them along the streets of Santa Barbara. Madame Walska personally led a tour of 820 Santa Barbara Beautiful supporters through the garden for this charity tour that raised \$10,000 for the "Street Tree Project." When all 5,500 trees were planted, Santa Barbara boasted the only completed street tree program in the United States. The newly completed cycad garden was also cause for a special "opening" tour to benefit the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden in August 1979.

Except for the brief hiatus, at least one major charity tour a year was held at Lotusland up until 1982, when Madame Walska's health was in decline. Since her death in 1984, the Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation has continued tours of the garden for the public. The long-standing tradition of charity tours and visits by botanists and horticultural organizations helped establish the precedent for opening the garden to the public on a regular basis. According to Lotusland Trustee B. Jo Dake, the need for docents became very apparent when the head gardener at Lotusland



Lotusland's most dedicated docent was also its designer and head gardener. Madame Walska enjoyed sharing her creation.



Docent training includes lectures and garden talks by community educators, including Dr. Ed Schneider, Director of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, here discussing the lotus, which he researched at Lotusland during Madame Walska's lifetime.

at that time, Earl Nydam, found he was spending all his time showing people around the estate rather than taking care of it. A search was launched for "botanically inclined" people in the community to become Lotusland docents.

In 1986 arrangements were made to have a short docent training course for a few volunteers. Lotusland's Executive Director, Dr. Steven Timbrook, was Coordinator of Education at the Botanic Garden at the time, and he conducted at least four separate orientation lectures for the fledgling docent class. Lotusland gardeners imparted their specialized knowledge of particular plants to trainees, and trainees also "shadowed" Earl Nydam when he gave tours. When they felt confident enough to lead their own tours, trainees were launched into their official roles as docents. The typical tour format was to divide people into groups with one docent at the front of the group and one bringing up the rear. Everyone went in the same direction (clockwise).

The first docent class in 1986 included six docents from the Botanic Garden and six members of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara. Enlistees from the Botanic Garden

included B. Jo Dake, Nancy Heubner, Eleanor Mamolen, Dorothy Marking, Stevie Service, and Alice Sheldon. From the Garden Club of Santa Barbara came Nan Burrows, Reba Green, Lou Greer, Bobbie Jones, Dana Kent, and Pam Palmer. Lotusland is honored to have three of these original docents still on active duty (Nancy Heubner, Dana Kent, and Dorothy Marking), one as docent emerita (Alice Sheldon), and one as a long-time Trustee (B. Jo Dake). Although Dr. Timbrook trained these first

docents, many docents giving tours today were trained under the wise tutelage of subsequent docent trainers Anne Dewey and Janet Eastman. Current docent trainers are Connie Buxton and Debbie Hild.

Today, docents typically lead groups of approximately ten people through the garden with tours lasting from 1½ to 2 hours. Although docents need never lead a group of 30 or 40 people through the garden in 45 minutes, they do carry on the tradition of disaster prevention...with cheerful flexibility being one of their strong suits. Lotusland now has more than 100 docents contributing their time and talents, and visitors regularly write thank you notes raving about the beauty of the garden and their wonderful docent.

If you would like to be part of the fine tradition of interpreting the gardens at Lotusland to people from all over the world, docent training starts in September. An information session for prospective docents will be held August 16th at 2 PM. If you would like to receive an invitation to this event and/or information about the docent training program, please contact Connie Buxton, Education Coordinator, at 969-3767, ext. 107; or e-mail to cbuxton@lotusland.org.

—Connie Buxton

Photographs from Lotusland's archives



Sometimes, Lotusland docents like Brenda Freeman find themselves being hugged by people who need people to give them a great tour of the garden.

Prospective Docent Reception & Docent Training for Fall 2001

MADAME GANNA WALSKA'S extraordinarily creative vision of garden design was transformed into reality by many talented landscape designers and horticulturalists who were experts in their fields. This transformation has been an ongoing process, each garden yielding fascinating stories about its beginning and metamorphosis into its present-day form.

Visitors to Lotusland are treated to botanical and historical information about the estate interpreted by docents who have undergone extensive training to prepare them for giving public tours.

Every other fall, a 14-week docent training course presents all necessary information for conducting a tour of the garden. Instructors are drawn from the staff at Lotusland, the Santa Barbara community, and other California academic and horticultural institutions. These informative and enjoyable Monday-morning sessions consist of an indoor and usually an outdoor portion, lasting approximately three hours. This fall's docent training will begin on September 17th.

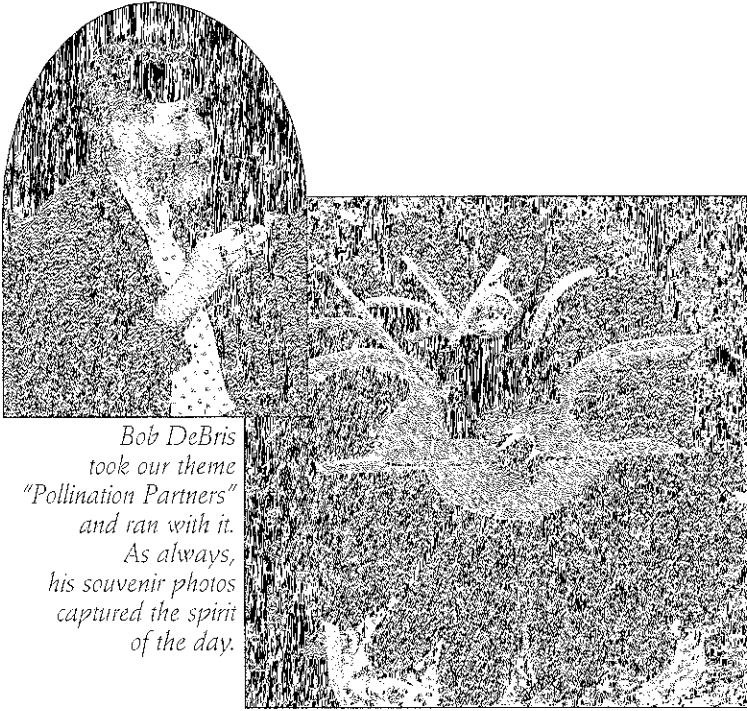
A prospective docent reception will be held on Thursday, August 16th at 2:00 PM. This biennial event offers prospective docents an opportunity to learn more about docent training and to meet some of the very knowledgeable docents who currently lead tours of the garden. All members (or their friends) who are interested in receiving an invitation to the information session, or who would like more information about becoming a docent, please call Connie Buxton, Education Coordinator, at 969-3767, ext. 107, or email cbuxton@lotusland.org.



Members' Fa

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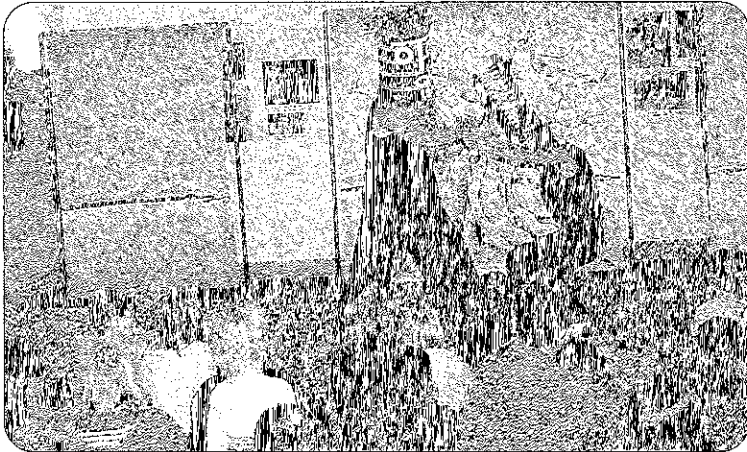
THE FOURTH ANNUAL Members' Family Day at



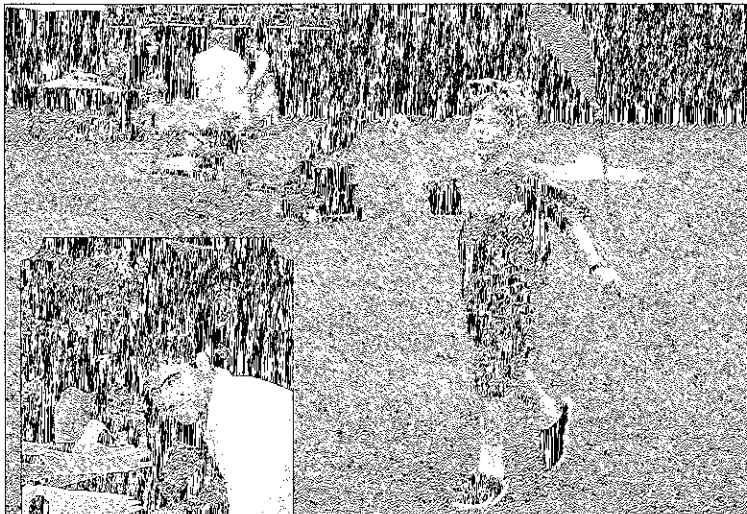
Bob DeBris took our theme "Pollination Partners" and ran with it. As always, his souvenir photos captured the spirit of the day.



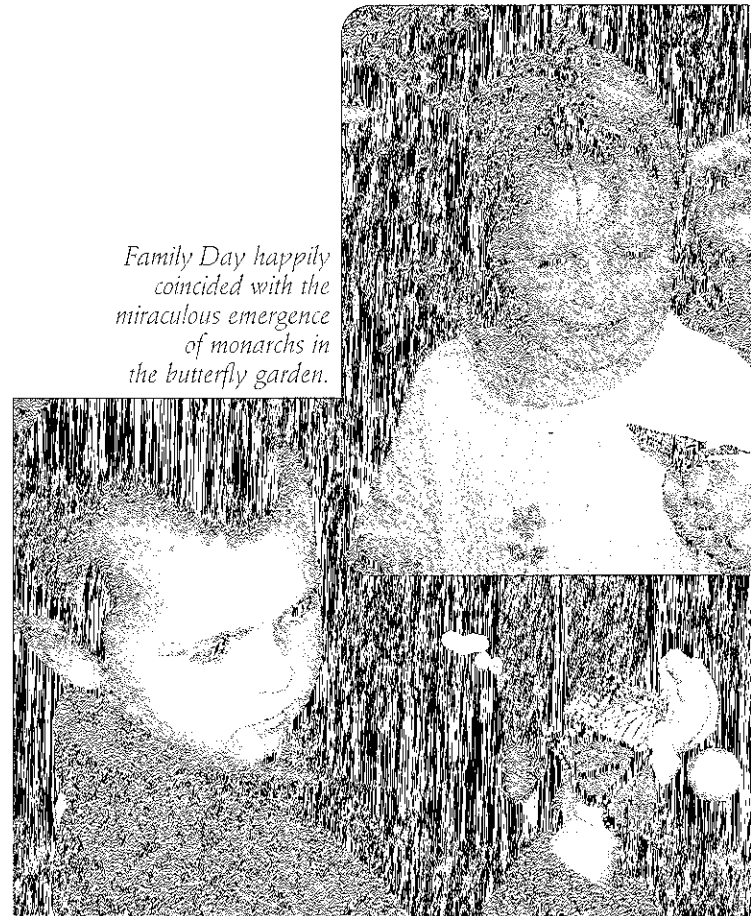
Les bonne temps "rouléed" with the Zydeco Zippers.



Boxtales performed to packed houses after moving their production inside. The show must go on!



A kite offers two challenges: making it (assisted by Esau Ramirez), and flying it.



Family Day happily coincided with the miraculous emergence of monarchs in the butterfly garden.



Family Day 2001

JUSTINE EMMONS FOUNDATION

Island was our busiest and best-attended yet!



A full day of giant bubblemaking created a steady stream of beautiful orbs floating over the great lawn.



Neptune once again played host to "Lotus Love" competitors.

Paint was everywhere—on delightfully site-specific face paintings by Angie Lawson...



Family Day Artist in Residence Gail Lucas joins Sandy Schneider in admiring the cake—accomplished under their direction by Montecito Confections.



...on a giant "coloring mural" (left, designed by Gail Lucas) where paint provided a creative outlet to an enthusiastic group of young artists...



...and sometimes on both (right).



Lotusland and the 20s: The Gavit Era



Cuesta Linda's bathhouse, designed by George Washington Smith, was added a few years after the house was built, c. 1925.

IN 1920, THE HOUSE that would form the heart of Lotusland was built by E. Palmer Gavit, newly arrived in Santa Barbara from the east. Within a few years, formal gardens had been laid out around the house that continue to offer the calm of nature controlled. The conventional parterres, fountains, and clipped hedges are a vivid contrast to Madame Walska's creation, which now surrounds them.

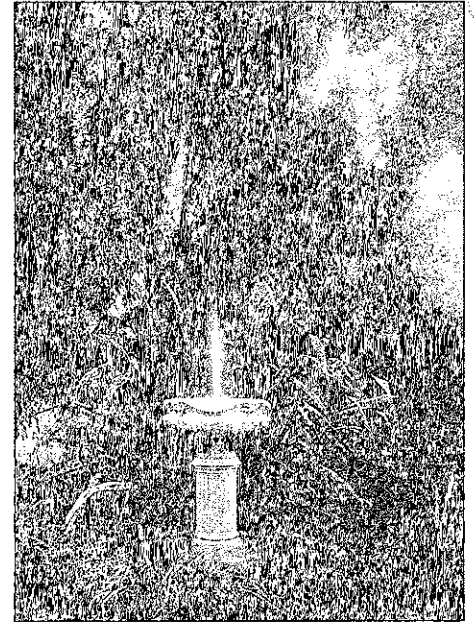
A special group of Easterners were making homes in California. Sophisticated, well traveled, stylish, they were secure in their own taste,

their wealth, and themselves. Often when they arrived, they were accomplished gardeners, for they owned large gardens back east.

E. Palmer Gavit's grandfather founded the American Bank Note Company, and his father carried on the lucrative family business of printing money. Palmer went his own way, or rather his father-in-law's, joining with him in developing electric and gas utilities around Albany and New York City. The first Mrs. Gavit was killed in a railroad accident in 1912, leaving her husband with a small child, Marcia Ann. After the death of his father-in-law in 1914, Gavit married a widow, Marie Turner.

The new family, traveling in its private railroad car, arrived for the first time in Santa Barbara in March 1915 and spent several weeks at the Potter Hotel. They went home to Albany, only to return to Santa Barbara the following winter, when they committed to purchasing the estate in Montecito that would be called *Cuesta Linda* (Sp. Pretty Hill) and which would become Lotusland 25 years later.

Work began on the Gavit's new home, a beautiful, welcoming Spanish Colonial Revival house designed by the well-respected Reginald Johnson, in the spring of 1919. They moved in a year later. While the house was being designed, Peter Riedel, a Dutch-born horticulturalist, was

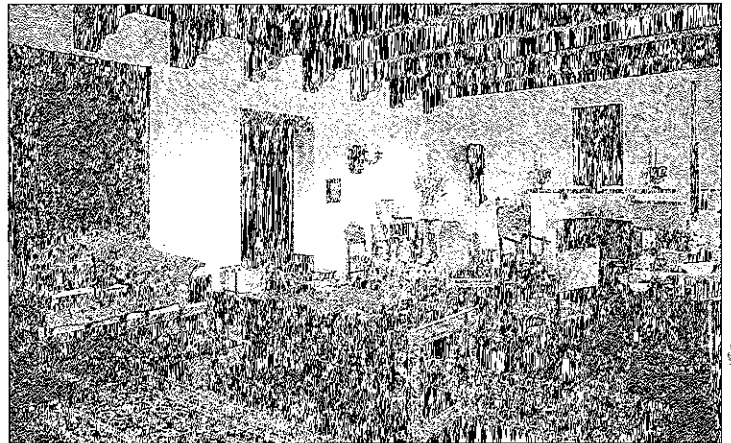


A lovely fountain (c. 1927) that dates from the Gavit era was recently renovated as part of the Topiary Garden restoration.

hired to renovate the neglected garden with the aid of Ralph Stevens. And in February 1920, Paul Thiene was contracted to design the formal gardens behind the house. These stately gardens with fountains, a rill, palms, tiles, an olive allée, and a lemon arbor begun by Thiene were expanded to other areas of the estate by George Washington Smith and perhaps Lockwood DeForest. The two-room bathhouse designed by Smith was linked to a wishing well and water stair by a double row of Italian cypress.



The Spanish Colonial Revival house the Gavits built. The architect was the well-known Reginald Johnson.



The sunken drawing room, c. 1925. The interior of the house and its decoration was consistent with its Spanish revival style.



Scenes from Cuesta Linda were part of a nationwide project by the Garden Club of America to document beautiful gardens. Taken in 1929, they represent the path to the wishing well from the pool (left) and the olive allee (center). The entrance to the library (right), now part of the pavilion patio, as it originally appeared (c. 1920).

For some years, the Gavit family, while enjoying *Cuesta Linda* in the winter months and *Wyndston* at Manchester, Massachusetts during the summer, continued to maintain their legal residence in Albany at *Thurlow Terrace*.

A series of changes and additions to the house were made in the mid 1920s, perhaps prompted by a permanent year-round commitment to living in Santa Barbara. George Washington Smith was hired as architect, and the pink wall surrounding the estate, a bathhouse, and several outbuildings were built.

Smith's addition to the house of a semi-attached residence called the Pavilion was meant to house Miss Ann Gavit ("Marcia" had been dropped), who instead married and left on an extended European honeymoon shortly after her new home was completed. Upon their return, she and her husband, Charles H. Jackson, Jr., purchased San Carlos Ranch off of East Valley Road near Sheffield Drive and commissioned Reginald Johnson to design their home there.

Mr. Gavit passed away in 1930. His wife died seven years later, un-

expectedly and in her sleep in her bedroom at *Cuesta Linda*. Her will included generous bequests to 22 relatives, friends, and servants. Mrs. Charles H. Jackson, Jr. (nee Ann Gavit) was left her stepmother's private railroad car, "Anacapa," and all jewelry, silver, linens, and other personal valuables.

Cuesta Linda was sold by Mrs. Gavit's estate three years later to Humphrey O. Clarke. He in turn sold it to Madame Ganna Walska eight months later, in June of 1941.

—Amanda Jones

Photographs from Lotusland's archives



The main drive and façade of Cuesta Linda, soon after its construction in 1920. The Queen palm, which dates from the turn of the last century, still stands over the entry court.

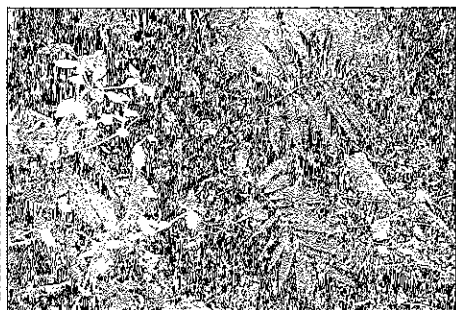


Many of Cuesta Linda's original architectural elements (such as these archways in the foyer) were altered by the Clarkes during their brief ownership c. 1940.



New to the Collections

THE YEAR 2001 has gotten off to a good start with many wonderful new accessions to the collection. First, of course, were the great additions to the cycad collection acquired on the Mexico expedition (see feature article). Of the 42 accessions, 11 were species that were not yet represented at the garden. Ten of these are in the genus *Ceratozamia*, three that have yet to be



VIRGINIA HAYES

Here is how the undescribed species of *Ceratozamia* from Xilitla looks in habitat.

officially described and published, another four that are just appearing in press, and a final three that have been described only since 1998. The last newcomer is *Zamia splendens*.

A second extensive set of wild collected plant material was received from the University of California, Berkeley in a house cleaning and consolidation move. As UC Berkeley maximized their greenhouse space, Lotusland profited by the overflow. All these plants are recent propagations of epiphytic cacti and will eventually find their way into the garden. Specimens of *Rhipsalis*, *Selenicereus*, and some more uncommon genera such as *Werckleocereus* and *Browningia* are part of the group of 23 new species for our collection.

—Virginia Hayes



VIRGINIA HAYES

Lotusland's cycad gardener, Corey Welles, pots up the new cycads for re-rooting in the nursery.

Do You Love Water Gardens? Come to LotusFest!

ON AUGUST 25, WE WILL CELEBRATE the lotus blossom season with a full day of fun and educational activities from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Three concurrent sessions are planned for each of the three time slots for a total of nine great choices. Less formal than a symposium, but packed full of information, there will be something for everyone—whether you own a pond or just want to learn more about aquatic plants and water gardening.

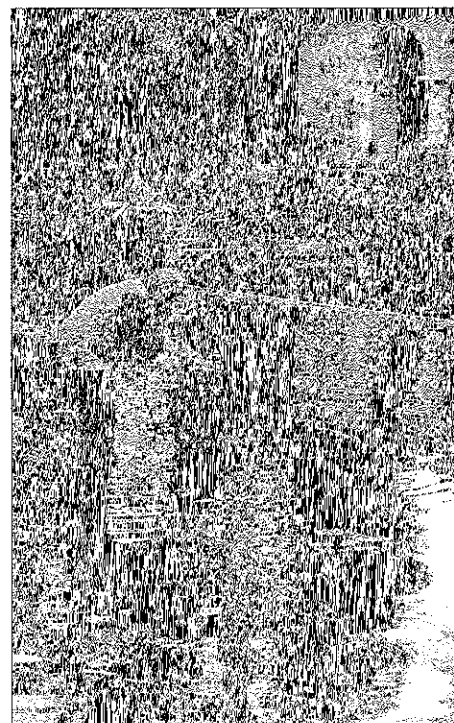
Choose between lectures on the natural history and symbolism of the lotus itself, everything you wanted to know about pond construction from pumps to filters, the basics of keeping koi in a garden pond, an introduction to the many other aquatic plants that can be grown here, and much, much more.

Sit in on a slide show of water gardens from big to small, watch a demonstration of water lily repotting,

get tips from an expert on nature photography (bring your camera even if you don't want to join this group!), or check out the portfolios and displays of our local water gardening experts who will be on hand to answer your questions.

A very special patio water garden will be raffled, so be sure to come prepared to buy a couple of chances to win.

Inspirational, informative, and enjoyable are just a few of the words we hope you will use in describing the day we have planned for you. There will be plenty of time to wander in the garden between sessions and during the lunch break to enjoy the lotus in bloom. Admission, lunch (fabulous gourmet barbecue), and entertainment are included in the ticket price of \$75 for members/\$85 for nonmembers. Use the coupon on page 19 to sign up.



VIRGINIA HAYES

The rewards of water gardening are limitless. LotusFest will help you explore all the possibilities.

Designing Men...and one designing woman

AN ILLUSTRATED LECTURE WITH MAGGIE LAMB

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2:00 PM



ANTHONY LAMB

Maggie Lamb talks about men.

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN TREATED to Maggie Lamb's wonderful presentation on Influential Women Gardeners a couple of years ago during the *Springtime in the Garden* series at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. In Maggie's words, "Having given the lecture on Influential Women for many years, I had various aggrieved men asking about when I was going to become politically correct and give the male equivalent!" Always being sensitive to these issues, Lotusland embraced this idea wholeheartedly... with one obvious exception: one extraordinary female garden designer needed to be included. Namely, Madame Ganna Walska, whom we

feel certain would enjoy being surrounded by all these men.

Men dominated the field (pun intended) for centuries, producing loads of talented male gardeners. Pruning this dense growth of information to a manageable size, Maggie's talk is subtitled "From Capability Brown to Christopher Lloyd." A brief consideration is given to the contributors to garden making, the botanists and plant hunters, the collectors and nurserymen. It then moves on to concentrate on the innovative landscape designers who shaped garden design through history: Andre le Notre, Capability Brown, and more recently Geoffrey Jellicoe, designer of the Moody Historical Gardens in Texas. We look at designers who emerged from the traditions of architecture: Edwin Lutyens and Harold Peto, and consider the development into garden designer and plantsmen by taking a photographic tour of gardens offering stellar examples. William Robinson, the father of the modern English flower garden, and the beautiful, elegant gardens at Gravetye Manor are featured, as are the gardens of Graham Stuart Thomas, Prince Charles, and some artist gardeners. Christopher Lloyd's innovative and experimental garden

at Great Dixter concludes the designing men portion of the lecture, and we finish the talk with a bow to Madame Ganna Walska, representing our sole designing woman.

Combining her talent as a photographer, her love of gardens, and her zest for life, Maggie creates talks about various horticultural subjects. She is on the speakers list for the Royal Horticultural Society, is a part-time Horticultural lecturer for Brighton College of Technology, is group garden guide for the historic and horticulturally important Borde Hill Gardens, and is involved in many garden-inspired projects. She enjoys nothing better than to share her lifelong passion and love of flowers, plants, and gardens with the fellow gardeners whom she meets on her travels.

Maggie will pry herself away from her own garden in Sussex, England to indulge us in this odyssey of designing men...and woman. We do hope you will join us for this delightfully entertaining presentation. Wine and refreshments will be served on the terrace following Maggie's talk. The cost is \$40 for members and \$45 for nonmembers. Please use the coupon on page 19 to reserve a space for this event.

Springtime in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys Garden Tour...

...INCLUDED SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL gardens of the region. Lotusland board member Carol Valentine and former chair of the UC Berkeley School of Landscape Architecture Mai Arbegast (left) used their considerable knowledge of the

area and its gardens to build a unique itinerary of private paradises. Of special note was Molly Chappellet's garden, set within the Chappellet vineyard. An accomplished gardener, designer, and author (*Gardens of the Wine Country*), her kitchen garden of lavender, basil, and lettuce is at right.

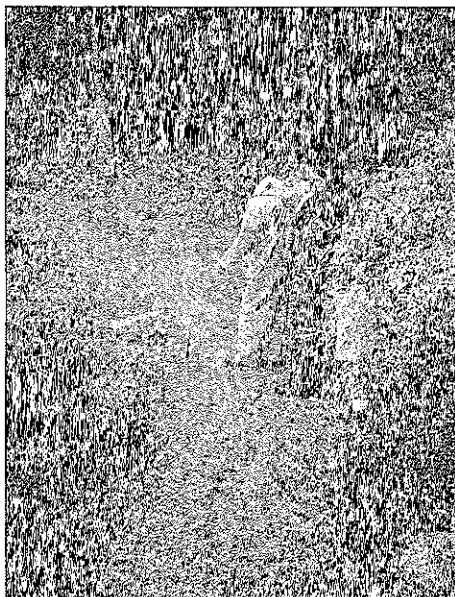
Photos by B. Jo Dake



Horticultural Happenings

JAPANESE GARDEN IRRIGATION SYSTEM

THE INSTALLATION OF AN automatic irrigation system is a major improvement to cultural practices and maintenance efficiency in the Japanese garden. Chip Collester, Chip Collester Landscapes, and Chris McNeil, Chip's irrigation foreman, worked with Lotusland staff to design a system for the existing landscape. The sensitive nature of the plantings and many other special considerations made this project an especially challenging one. Sunny hot spots, areas in total shade, steep slopes and flat areas in the same planting bed, plant diversity, poor drainage conditions, minimizing runoff on pathways and into the pond, and reducing the direct spray of water on stone lanterns and statuary influenced the design of the system. The dense nature of the plantings and the need to cause as little damage as possible to roots, groundcovers, and paths made the installation of the system labor intensive. All trenches were dug by hand and large roots were not cut. Every day revealed a special circumstance needing consideration of a design change or a creative installation method. A lot of flexible



ALL PHOTOS BY MIKE IVEN

A final check on a major improvement to cultural practices and maintenance efficiency.



Japanese garden staff Greg Kitajima, Terri Clay, and Frank Fujii joined landscaper Chip Collester (second from left) and irrigation foreman Chris McNeil (far right) in the challenging irrigation system installation.

pipe is now buried throughout the planting beds.

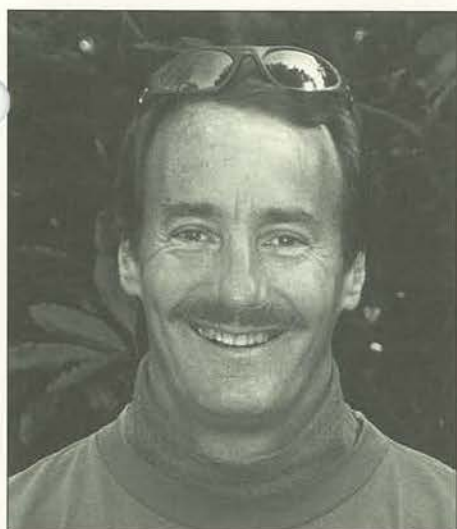
It was worth it. The Japanese garden now has an irrigation system with about 30 automatic stations capable of providing specific areas and plant groups with the amount of water they need. Compost tea, plant nutrients, and other soluble organic materials can be injected through the system. Irrigations will be scheduled before or after working hours, public tours and special events. The 93 days per year of staff time previously spent watering, moving and maintaining sprinklers, and fertilizing by hand will be more productively used improving cultural conditions, providing timely pruning, training new gardeners in the Japanese garden, and undertaking special projects. If you really want to see the worth of the new irrigation system, check out the smiles on the faces of Frank Fujii, Terri Clay, Greg Kitajima and the rest of the Japanese garden staff the next time you visit the garden.

NEW GROUNDS STAFF

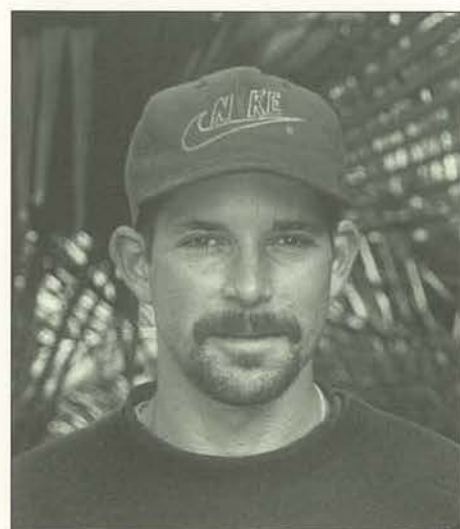
TIM CORDERO (RIGHT) grew up in Orcutt, California, and began working

in the landscape industry there. After settling in Santa Barbara, Tim continued working in all phases of the landscape maintenance and landscape installation trade. Since accepting a grounds position at Lotusland in November 2000, Tim's responsibilities have increased due to his experience and capabilities. He is responsible for the maintenance and cultural care of the aloe garden and the main lawn. Tim appreciates the learning opportunities at Lotusland, and especially likes "how friendly everybody is and how everybody works together as a team."





Garen Phillips (left) and Kyle McCune (right) have worked at Lotusland for more than a year, but became regular full-time employees at the beginning of 2001. Last year, as temporary groundstaff employees, they were tremendously helpful working on special garden projects, providing regular grounds maintenance, and helping other gardeners maintain sustainable horticultural practices. As full-time employees, Kyle and Garen have a full plate of regular assigned responsibilities to go along with their special daily work-as-needed in the garden. —Mike Iven



A New Horticultural Lab Is Funded by the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust

IN DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR, Lotusland received a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust to set up and equip a horticultural lab. The grant included funds for refurbishing one of the rooms in the studio and for purchasing a computer as well as various lab implements and chemicals. The new lab and computer allow us to more efficiently manage Lotusland's plant and garden records, as well as conduct certain tests in the garden.

At Lotusland, we have replaced conventional practices and materials in the management of our plant collections with natural biological processes, and it is important that we monitor these processes to ensure the continuing health of the garden. Phenomena such as nutrient cycling, disease suppression, and insect/plant relationships are examples of beneficial interactions that come from sustainable management of the garden. Plant management decisions are no longer made at the organism level but at the community level. That means that careful consideration is given to the effect any plant management task might have on all the organisms in the garden. In order to make intelligent decisions, we must know the level at which these beneficial interactions are occurring. In ecology,

these beneficial interactions are called emergent properties.

In the new lab, we are able to test the amount of nutrient cycling, that is, the release of nutrients by beneficial soil organisms as they consume the organic matter we add to the garden in the form of compost and mulch. To the degree this occurs, we are able to reduce applying organic fertilizers. In certain areas, such as the rose garden, the soil organisms release sufficient nutrients from the organic matter they consume to provide all the required nutrients.

An important indicator of a healthy garden, and a sign that natural disease suppression is increasing, is the return of beneficial fungi, such as mycorrhizae, to the garden. These

beneficial fungi are always found in natural systems and provide a multitude of benefits to the plants whose roots they colonize. Conventional management practices usually create conditions that are antagonistic to mycorrhizae and other beneficial soil organisms. We have been attempting to re-colonize the garden with commercial strains of mycorrhizae. Research has shown that introduced mycorrhizae helps restore suitable conditions for native mycorrhizae. Our new lab allows us to monitor these mycorrhizal introductions and continue to improve our sustainable horticultural practices.

—John Laflour



The health of beneficial mycorrhizal fungi and nematodes can be monitored in the horticultural lab, and the new computer aids in the management of plant and garden records.



Friends of Lotusland

We Welcome New Members Who Joined
in February, March, and April 2001

LEVEL I

Ms. Diana Anderson
 Ms. Rita Anderson
 Ms. Gloris Barber
 Ms. Ellen Belinski
 Mr. & Mrs. John C. Bishop, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Blair
 Ms. Christine Brennan
 Mr. Ralph Brubaker
 Ms. Joan Calder
 Ms. Susan Cavero
 Ms. Kelly Clancy
 Ms. Cherie Copper
 Ms. Nancy Couvrey
 Mr. David Dahlke
 Mr. C.W. Deen
 Ms. Gidget DiGiovanni
 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Eagle
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 Ms. Kathy Flynn
 Ms. Laurel Foster
 Mrs. Joy Frank
 Ms. Lisa Fuog
 Ms. Kyle Futo
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 Ms. Roslyn Gillespie
 Mrs. Jane Greenberg
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 Ms. Vivian Hamer
 Ms. Colleen L. Harbaugh
 Mr. & Mrs. Ric Hardman
 Mr. Scott Hardt
 Ms. Denise Herzberg
 Ms. Mary Hooper
 Ms. Leigh Hubbard
 Ms. Margaret Hughes
 Ms. Lisa Inouye
 Ms. Cynthia James
 Ms. Snow Kahn
 Ms. Ilene Kruppa
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Lavallee
 Dr. Howard Liebman
 Ms. Ana Llorente
 Ms. Marjorie Locher
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Madrid
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Martin
 Mr. Richard Matthews
 Ms. Joan McCormick
 Ms. Laini Melnick
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward Mendell

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 Ms. Vickie Moore
 Ms. Marilyn Moran
 Ms. Kristen Muscug
 Ms. Susan Newcomb
 Ms. Camille Panzanello
 Ms. Amy Pell
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 Mr. Matthew Raue
 Mr. Rich Ray
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 Ms. Norma Sink
 Mr. J. Richard Stead
 Ms. Jane Sun
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Sylvester
 Dr. & Mrs. R.T. Voelkel
 Mrs. Paula Walbert
 Mr. & Mrs. Jon Wall
 Mr. Larry Wheeler
 Mr. & Mrs. Duane Willis
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wisham

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 Ms. Virginia Cornell
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 Ms. Marilyn Gantz
 Ms. Margaret Evans Gault
 Ms. Carolyn Glore
 Mrs. Meredith McKittrick
 Ms. Marlene O'Brien
 Mr. Ron Ramirez
 Ms. Tana Sommer-Belin
 Ms. Barbara Steffy
 Mr. John N. Stillion
 Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Swart
 Travel Valet International
 Mr. & Mrs. Gene Yancy

LEVEL III

Ms. Stephanie Shuman

LEVEL IV

Ms. Sandy Hill

Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

February, March, and April 2001

GENERAL DONATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Don Bennett
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Buchen
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Burkemper
 Ms. Astrid De Wild
 Mrs. Donald Harcourt
 Mr. & Mrs. Tim Koster
 Mr. James A. Shattuck
 Mr. John L. Stern
 Ms. Celeste Tubman
 Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Wright, Jr.

GRANTS

The Robert and Christine
 Emmons Foundation
 for Members' Family Day

HONORING

Ms. Cecelia A. Dalsemer
 in honor of Carol Valentine
 Mr. & Mrs. Rob Farber
 after a tour with Lori Meschler
 Mr. & Mrs. James Moffett
 after a tour with Barbara Siemon
 Ms. Mary Statler
 after a tour with Mona Van Atta
 Ms. Louisa E. Thielst
 after a lecture by Janet Eastman
 Ms. Daphne A. Townsend
 after a tour with Helene Mussbach

LOTUS SOCIETY TO BENEFIT LOTUSLAND'S ENDOWMENT

Mrs. Rowe Giesen

PLANTS

Mr. Burl Mostul, Rare Plant Research

THE DUNLAP COLLECTION

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Keller
 Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Somdahl

2000 ANNUAL APPEAL

Mr. Merritt S. Dunlap
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Harriman
 Ms. Victoria Holmen
 Mr. & Mrs. Ervin Klinkon

LotusFest

CELEBRATE LOTUS BLOSSOM SEASON WITH A FULL DAY OF FUN AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Saturday, August 25, 2001
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

\$75/members

\$85/nonmembers

INCLUDES GOURMET BARBECUE LUNCH

Number of people attending _____

Number of cars _____

Total \$ _____

Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form

PAYMENT METHOD:

Check enclosed VISA MasterCard Expiration date _____

Card number _____ Signature _____

Member name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

*Fees are refundable only if cancellation is received one week before class or lecture.
If minimum enrollment is not reached, classes and lectures may be canceled.
No phone reservations, please.*

Mail to: Ganna Walska Lotusland, Attn: Member Events,
695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Designing Men: INFLUENTIAL MEN IN GARDENING

AN ILLUSTRATED LECTURE
with BRITISH HORTICULTURALIST
MAGGIE LAMB

November 3, 2001 • 2:00 PM
SORRY, NO PASSES
ACCEPTED FOR THIS LECTURE

\$40/members

\$45/nonmembers

INCLUDES WINE AND REFRESHMENTS

Number of people attending _____

Number of cars _____

Total \$ _____

Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form

PAYMENT METHOD:

Check enclosed VISA MasterCard Expiration date _____

Card number _____ Signature _____

Member name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

*Fees are refundable only if cancellation is received one week before class or lecture.
If minimum enrollment is not reached, classes and lectures may be canceled.
No phone reservations, please.*

Mail to: Ganna Walska Lotusland, Attn: Member Events,
695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Members Who Have
Increased Their
Level of Support
February, March, and
April 2001

LEVEL II

Mary Lou Ardohain
Mr. & Mrs. Don Graves
Mr. & Mrs. David Kent
Ms. Carolyn Kincaid



Retraction

WE APOLOGIZE FOR AN ERROR in an article in the winter newsletter about Madame Walska that began "Born in Czarist Russia..." It should have read, "Born in Czarist Poland...." Madame Walska was very proud of her Polish heritage, and we regret any confusion this error may have caused.

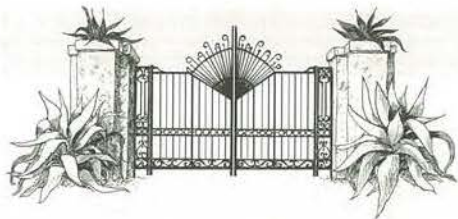
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Member Events *July through December*

MANY LOTUSLAND EVENTS are open to non-members, so let your friends and neighbors know about the great activities we offer. And once again this year, we are offering several opportunities to bring children to the garden. Kids and grandkids are welcome at many events, and Family Tour days are scheduled twice every month (see the last item in the listing). We hope you will enjoy the year 2001 at Lotusland.

Sunday, July 29

Lotusland Celebrates

4:00–8:00 PM

Join us for Lotusland's premier fund-raising event—a not to miss! Invitations will be mailed to all members in June.

Saturday, August 11

Self-guided Tours for All Members

9:30 AM–NOON

MEMBERS \$15 or use admission pass. Call 969-9990 for reservations 9 AM–noon, M–F.

Thursday, August 16

Prospective Docent Reception

2:00 PM

Become a Lotusland Docent! Encourage friends to join you in learning about our highly regarded docent training program. It's a botanical and historical education. Call 969-3767, ext. 107 for more information and to sign up.

Saturday, August 25

LotusFest

10:00 AM–4:00 PM

The 2nd annual festival to honor the lotus at the peak of their bloom. Entertainment and barbecue lunch included. MEMBERS \$75; NONMEMBERS \$85. Use the coupon on page 19 to sign up.

Thursday, November 8

Designing Men Influential Men in Gardening Illustrated lecture by British Horticulturist Maggie Lamb

2:00 PM

Maggie Lamb has traveled the world over learning about and photographing gardens, both famous and obscure. Her illustrated lecture, *Designing Men*, is certain to educate and delight. A celebrated and sought-after speaker in her native England, her highly entertaining style has made her lectures a must-see for English gardeners in the know. Followed by wine and refreshments on the terrace.

MEMBERS \$40; NONMEMBERS \$45.

Sorry, passes cannot be used for this event. Use the coupon on page 19 to sign up.

November 15

Garden is closed to regular tours until February 17.

Saturday, December 1

Holiday Shopping and Self-guided Tours

1:00–4:30 PM

MEMBERS \$15 or free admission pass; NONMEMBERS \$20. Beginning October 1, call 969-9990 for reservations 9 AM–noon, M–F.



FAMILY TOURS

Remember, family tours for all ages are offered the first Thursday morning of each month at 10:00 AM and the third Thursday afternoon of each month at 1:30 PM. Family tours are kid and parent friendly and are separate from regular adult tours.

ADULT MEMBERS \$15 or use admission passes; CHILDREN UNDER TEN \$10; CHILDREN UNDER TWO free. Call 969-9990 for reservations 9 AM–noon, M–F.