

# LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS VOLUME 9 NO. 1 SPRING 2000

## Begonias

By VIRGINIA HAYES

WHEN CHARLES PLUMIER stopped in for some botanizing in the West Indies in 1690, there were already thriving sugar cane plantations on Barbados, St. Kitts, and Jamaica. These islands were then part of the French Antilles. Plumier, a monk as well as a botanist, had read the accounts of an English physician with a passion for plant collecting — Hans Sloane. Sloane had actually described several species of plants that were later recognized as begonias, but it was Plumier who coined the name that Linnaeus published in his 1753 "Species Plantarum." It is a Latinization of the name of the then governor of Haiti, Michel Begon. The honorable Msr. Begon is said to have been a patron of botany, so finding his name immortalized by a genus of tropical flowering plants is not surprising. Plumier's name is also perpetuated in this way, although the honor was not bestowed until after his death when Linnaeus codified the genus *Plumeria*.

The genus *Begonia* is quite widespread throughout the tropics and subtropics of Central and South America, Southern Africa, and the Far East, including Malaysia and the Philippines. There are about 900 species, a largish number for a plant genus, but the even larger number of hybrids and cultivars (10,000 plus) attests to the beauty and ease of cultivation of the genus. The history of begonia introductions and hybridization is long and intriguing. In part this explosion of types is due to the

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*Begonia 'Fantastic Tom' with silvery white speckles is one of the angel wing types of cane begonias.*

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THE LOTUSLAND NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS  
is published by  
Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation  
695 Ashley Road  
Santa Barbara, California 93108  
(805) 969-3767

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wide range of forms they exhibit. There are fibrous-rooted and tuberous-rooted species, and both of these groups have further subdivisions. Some have swollen and jointed stems (the cane begonias), some creep along by succulent rhizomes, and there are even epiphytic species.

Two characters are almost universal throughout the genus. Most have asymmetrical leaves with one side shorter than the other, resembling an elephant's ear. All have flowers that are unisexual with one male and two female flowers adjacent to each other in the same inflorescence.

From there on the differences begin to overwhelm the similarities. For the sake of discussion, the following types are generally recognized.

### FIBROUS-ROOTED

These are generally shrubby and erect from six inches to five feet in height with small flowers in white or pink — but a few trailing ones are suitable for hanging baskets. The familiar summer bedding plants, cultivars of *Begonia semperflorens*, are among this group. The larger *B. metallica* is also common.

### CANE-STEMMED

Many well-known houseplants are of this type. The common name angel-wing begonia belongs to some of them. They are strongly upright with bamboo-like stems that are

swollen at the nodes and can reach more than six feet in height. Some of the more impressive in stature are *Begonia vitifolia*, grape leaf begonia, and *B. luxurians*, palm leaf begonia.

### TUBEROUS-ROOTED

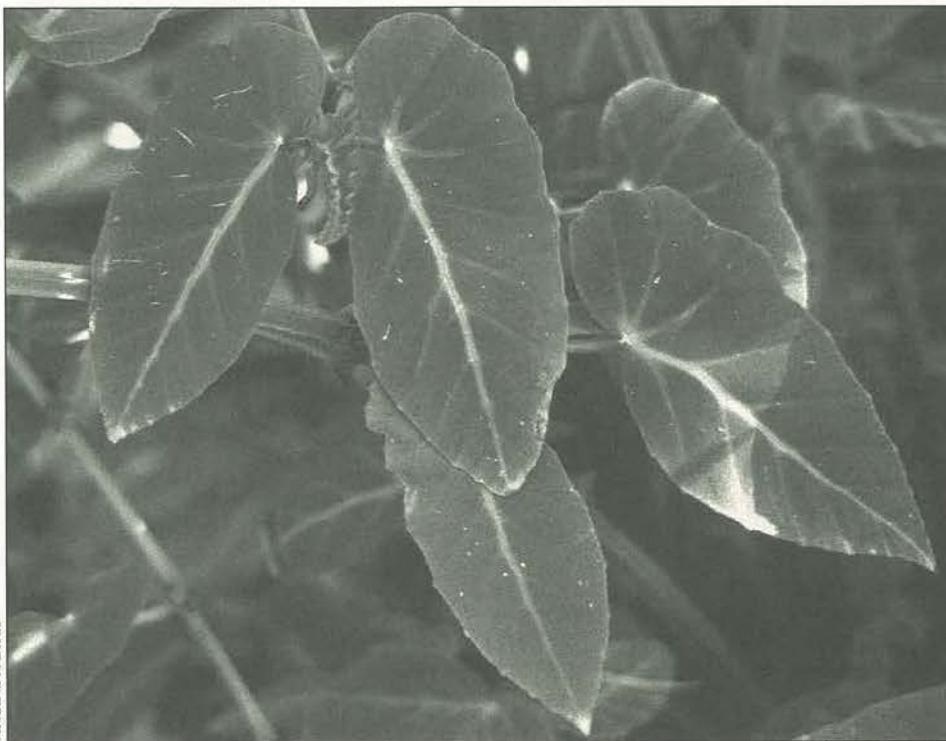
Species with tuberous roots are found on three continents, but those most commonly seen in cultivation are Central American in origin. Veitch and Sons of England created the first generation of the large-flowering hybrids that bloom spectacularly during the summer months. Other hybridizers soon followed, and the number of available cultivars continues to grow. The range of colors extends from white to pink to orange, red, and yellow. Often the male flowers are double, with numerous plain or crinkled petals crowded around the many yellow stamens. The two female flowers flanking these are usually inconspicuous by comparison and are typically removed by those in the know to allow the males to benefit from reduced competition for nutrients. Tuberous begonias are much like other bulbous plants and have a dormant period during which they must be kept dry to prevent rot.

### SEMI-TUBEROUS

Winter-blooming species from Madagascar and arid regions of Southern Africa added another season of bloom to the collectors' and growers' stock. Many have thickened stems, particularly at the base. Their leaves are often small and lobed, giving them the name maple-leaf begonias. They do not experience complete dormancy, but may lose their leaves during periods of cold or drought.

### RHIZOMATOUS

Some of the most colorful leaves are found on the rhizomatous begonias. Variegations, striations, and felty textures are to be found in this



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Asymmetrical leaves are typical of many begonias. This species, *Begonia angularis*, from Brazil, was first described in 1820.

group, from the velvety black leaves of *Begonia* 'Joe Hayden' to the brown-speckled, grass green ones of *B.* 'Cleopatra.' Large leaves are also found in this group, some as large as 18 to 24 inches across. *B. barkeri* is one such species and some of its cultivars, including 'Lotusland' and 'Freddy,' are favorites in the garden. Members of the Rex Cultorum group of hybrids belong here, too. They were derived from the accidental introduction of *B. rex* on the sheath of an orchid from India in 1858. Thousands of hybrids were subsequently created with an astounding array of colors, including metallic sheens, crinkled textures, and leaf forms from lobed to spiraling.

Begonias are displayed at Lotusland in numerous beds in the fern garden. Although Madame Walska objected to the idea of adding any color to this garden, designer Bill Paylen assured her that she would be pleased and went ahead with his idea. She soon acknowledged the wisdom of his decision. Many of the original plants were purchased from

the Leatherman Nursery in El Monte. Sylvia and Buck Leatherman were pioneers in begonia cultivation and introduced a number of hybrids to the trade. Sylvia perfected the method of propagation known as the cone leaf method, which produces specimen-sized plants in record time. One unusual survivor from their nursery is *Begonia* 'Floribunda Rosea,' with delicate pendant flowers resembling fuchsias.

Many more begonias that enhanced the original fern garden came from Rudolph Ziesenhenné's nursery here in Santa Barbara (see box). While few of the Leatherman plants have survived, many of Ziesenhenné's thrive today. Additional specimens were purchased from him in 1986 to include in the extension to the fern garden laid out by Paylen. New acquisitions have been made to the collection this past year (see **New to the Collections**). Carpinteria nurseryman Mark Bartholomew has taken up the passion in recent years and donated a number of additional plants so that



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*The swollen nodes of this cane type Begonia vitifolia mimic the rings of leaf scars on the nearby fishtail palm.*

the current collection of begonia species and cultivars numbers more than 85.

SAVE THE DATE

## Lotusfest August 26

LONG-REVERED AS A SYMBOL of purity and transcendence in India, China, and Japan, the lotus is also the most stunning flowering plant on display at Lotusland through the summer months.

This year we will celebrate these magnificent plants with a day long festival. On hand will be aquatic plant experts to answer your questions, local craftspeople selling handmade items inspired by the orient or botanical subjects, music, bonsai and ikebana displays, food booths selling tasty treats, and much more.

So mark your calendars now and plan on joining in the festivities, Saturday, August 26th. Kids are welcome. A reservation coupon will appear in our summer newsletter.

*Applications for exhibitors and vendors are still being accepted. Address inquiries to Lotusfest Committee, Lotusland, 695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108.*



WM. B. DEW



## A New Look

LOTUSLAND'S MAIN DRIVE enters a new century with a new look; the gravel surface has been replaced with a firm layer of tan decomposed granite. On an estate dedicated to historic preservation, change can cause concern. In this case, however, the look is consistent with other Santa Barbara estates of the 1920s and '30s, and the end result of increased accessibility for those in wheelchairs is cause for celebration.

The gravel we have been familiar with for the last couple of decades is but one of the surfaces the drive has had since its construction in the late 1800s. Originally built by R. Kinton Stevens to provide access from Sycamore Canyon Road through his nursery to the family home, the drive later served as the guest entrance for Cuesta Linda during the Gavit family era and for Lotusland during Madame Walska's life. Recent trenching for a storm drain to protect the new surface from erosion revealed several types and colors of roadway material, including some previous use of decomposed granite, reflecting the different surface treatments used during its hundred-plus-year history.

As Lotusland opens for a new season of garden visits, the generosity of Lord and Lady Ridley-Tree, Margaret Staton, Santa Barbara Foundation and an anonymous donor has removed a major barrier to the enjoyment of the garden by all.

LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES: THE MAIN DRIVE IN 1960

## EYE OF THE DAY GARDEN DESIGN CENTER

in Carpinteria is once again offering free classes this spring, including one by Lotusland's curator, Virginia Hayes, Saturday, April 15th. Call Eye of the Day for the schedule at 566-0778, and look for special discounts for Lotusland members on selected merchandise with a portion of the sales going to support horticulture programs in Santa Barbara.

## Gifts to Lotusland's Annual Appeal

LOTUSLAND'S 1999 ANNUAL APPEAL was a tremendous success thanks to your generosity. The number of individual gifts increased a whopping 50% while the dollar amount increased 25%! Thank you very much — your support is crucial to the well-being of the garden and gratifying to all of us who work and volunteer at Lotusland. All donations to the annual appeal are 100% tax deductible and will help us with many important projects this year including education, preservation, conservation, and visitor service.

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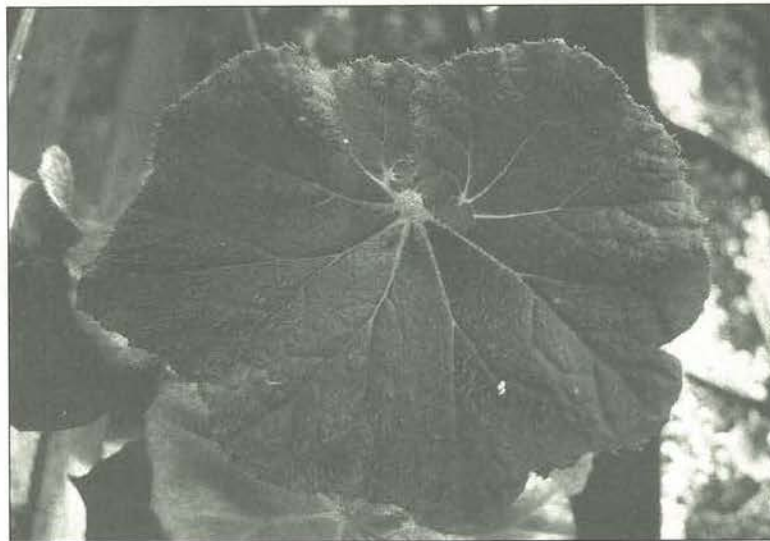
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 Ms. Shirley Toepfner

## New to the Collections

SEVERAL INTERESTING ADDITIONS to the begonia collection arrived during the last year. From Rudy Ziesenhenné's greenhouses we received *Begonia castanaefolia*, a Brazilian species with arrow-shaped leaves that are olive green with veins outlined in white. *B.* 'Red Rubin' has a habit much like the familiar *B.* 'Richmondensis,' but with bronze leaves, dark red stems, and white flowers. New cultivars *B.* 'Essie Hunt,' *B. x erythophylla* 'Helix,' and *B. carrieae x 'Bokit'* are all examples of what are called "spiral leaved" begonias, meaning they have unusual leaves that spiral like a corkscrew from the base.

Mark Bartholomew of Hi-Mark Nursery donated 13 new begonias to Lotusland. Two are smaller versions of old favorites, *Begonia* 'Dwarf Freddy' and *B.* 'Dwarf Richmondensis.' Across the pathway from our established *B. luxurians*, a Rudy Ziesenhenné hybrid of the same species, *B.* 'Rudy's Luxurians,' has been planted. Two new species are *B. epipsila* from Brazil, a sprawling shrub with glossy



This young leaf of *Begonia carrieae x 'Bokit'* is just beginning to show its spiralling habit.

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olive green leaves that are strikingly dark red underneath, and *B. fuchsoides*, a Venezuelan native whose species name comes from the rosy pink fuchsia-like flowers that hang down on long peduncles below the small glossy green leaves. New cultivars include *B.* 'Viaudii,' a shrubby plant with large leaves covered in many thin hairs and large flowers that are

furry and pink on the outside shading to pearly white inside. *B.* 'Zuensis' resembles it, but has distinctive deeply ridged leaves marked with darker green veins. Many of our new begonias can be seen residing in the recently renovated areas of the fern garden on either side of the drinking fountain entrance.

—Jennifer Wilbanks

### RUDY'S BEGONIAS



*Begonia* 'Lotusland' was a chance seedling in Ziesenhenné's greenhouse without a name until prodded by a National Geographic photographer to supply him and it with one.

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ALTHOUGH ZIESENHENNE had no formal training in botany, he described and named at least 35 new species of begonias and registered about 90 cultivars. He began by reading such botanical classics as Gray's *Manual of Botany* and earlier writings by the father of taxonomy, Augustin de Candolle. Along with his careful observations of the plants he was describing, he made botanical drawings of each plant part, starting with the roots and progressing upward through stem, leaves, and flowers. As he counsels, "You don't really know a plant until you've drawn it." He eventually made up a key to follow so that no character, however minute, would be missed in his description. It contained 300 features that might be present on a particular begonia plant.

Many of his descriptions were of plants grown from seed or plants collected in Mexico by Thomas MacDougall. A landscape architect from New York, MacDougall spent his winters travelling and collecting in Chiapas and Oaxaca, leaving his collected plants in the care of a local hotel and his money and personal effects in the care of the local priest when he went off into the wilds. Retrieving these later, he would make up a shipment at the border destined for Santa Barbara as he returned to New York.

Because he wasn't affiliated with a museum or scientific institution, Ziesenhenné could not obtain herbarium specimens of previously named begonias to compare with his plants, but was soon corresponding with research scientists and directors of botanic gardens and herbaria worldwide. He discovered that many herbaria would photograph the vouchers and sell the prints to anyone who requested them. He also set up a darkroom to develop prints of microfilmed articles he was able to obtain from the national library.



# Horticultural Happenings

## MISSION STATEMENT: GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND FOUNDATION

THE PURPOSE OF GANNA WALSKA Lotusland is to preserve and enhance the spectacular collections of rare and exotic plants on the Montecito estate of the late Madame Walska and, through interpretation of these collections, to foster increased knowledge and appreciation of the importance of plants and the need for their conservation.

EVERYONE INVOLVED with Lotusland contributes to an ongoing effort to preserve, enhance, and interpret the collections, as well as to provide information about conservation issues to visitors and associates. The horticultural staff participates at all levels of this process, including grounds maintenance, garden renovations and restorations, docent and volunteer training, members' workshops and classes, and direct interaction with visitors and other horticulturists. The Lotusland Foundation believes continuing education for all its employees will enhance its long-range goals.

Horticultural staff members attend classes, seminars, and conferences related to their garden responsibilities and as a representative of Lotusland. The ecologically based horticulture practiced at Lotusland improves with new information and techniques to be considered, adapted, and put to practice. For example, much of the research and information relating to sustainable agriculture can be applied to horticultural practices. An applied understanding of soil ecology encourages the implementation of soil improvement practices. Attending relevant classes and workshops further develops special maintenance skills and cultural practices.

In 1999, Lotusland Horticultural staff attended the following classes, seminars and professional meetings:

**JANUARY 22 Mark Kyriaco** attended "Trees and the Law," a Western Tree Management Symposium hosted by Huntington Gardens presented in cooperation with the California



Urban Forest Council and UC Cooperative Extension.

**FEBRUARY 13 Frank Fujii and Disa Lindberg-Perkins** attended a Japanese garden design program sponsored by the Japanese Friendship Garden of San Diego. Topics discussed included authenticity, creativity, context, and "ways to see" in Japanese gardens.

Professor Takeo Uesugi, landscape architect, Professor Makoto Nakamura, designer of the Himeji Koko-en Garden and professor emeritus of Kyoto University, and Mr. Tokushirou Tamane, Curator of Stone and Tree Trimming in Japan and Master Gardener of the Golden Pavilion in Kyoto, addressed the conference attendees and demonstrated specialized garden techniques and arts at this unique one-day conference.

**FEBRUARY 23-25 Michael Iven** attended the Compost, Compost Tea and Soil Foodweb Complexity Workshop sponsored by the Oregon State University Microbial Biomass Service and Soil Foodweb Inc. at OSU in Corvallis, Oregon.

**APRIL 11-16 Corey Welles** attended the 28th Biennial International Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America in Las Vegas.

**APRIL 28-30 Mark Kyriaco** attended the 1999 International Society of Arboriculture Western Chapter Annual Conference in Oxnard.

**AUGUST 7-10 Virginia Hayes and Peter Schneider** attended Cycad '99, the international conference for cycad enthusiasts, growers, and scientists, sponsored by Fairchild Tropical Garden and Montgomery Botanical Center in Miami, Florida.

**AUGUST 16-27 John Lafleur** attended the International Short Course on Agroecology at UC Santa Cruz.

The course explored the application of agroecological knowledge to the design of sustainable farming and horticultural systems, i.e. putting theory into practice.

**SEPTEMBER 4 Esau Ramirez** attended the 16th Succulent Plants Symposium at Huntington Botanical Gardens.

**SEPTEMBER 9** Grounds staff visited the home and garden of Mr. and Mrs. Loren Whitelock. Mr. Whitelock conducted a very enjoyable and informative three-hour tour of his garden and world renowned cycad collection.

**SEPTEMBER 18 Virginia Hayes, John Lafleur, Esau Ramirez, Kristy Rofermund, Peter Schneider, Disa Lindberg-Perkins, Jay Hinkle, and Corey Welles** helped prepare and present the Sustainable Horticulture class and exhibits to approximately 25 enrollees.

**SEPTEMBER 24** Several members of the horticultural staff attended a free morning seminar sponsored by UC Extension in Ventura. Jim Downer, Dr. Ben Faber, and other guest speakers discussed soils and soil work, new insect pests in the area, and updates on continuing horticultural problems.

**OCTOBER 21-23 Corey Welles and Michael Iven** attended the AABGA Pacific Region Meeting at the Getty Center in Los Angeles.

**NOVEMBER 11-14 Disa Lindberg-Perkins and Terri Clay** attended Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention XXII in Anaheim, California. The conference featured discussions and demonstrations by bonsai masters as well as hands-on workshops.

**NOVEMBER 23-24 Esau Ramirez and Corey Welles** attended The UC Cooperative Extension Landscape Entomology and Disease Symposia in Oak View, California. The conference provides landscape industry professionals with current knowledge and information about serious insect pests and plant pathogens of ornamental plants. —Mike Iven

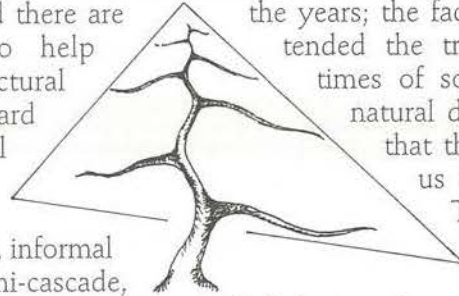
## Study Niwaki Techniques in the Japanese Garden

PRUNING IS WHAT MAKES the living part of a Japanese garden Japanese. Without applying *niwaki* pruning techniques to our Japanese maples and black pines at least two or three times a year, they would be overgrown in a very short time. These trees are not specially dwarfed or miniaturized species—a common misconception. Some black pines in the garden are 40 to 50 years old and would be 90 to 100 feet high without pruning, and our Japanese maples would normally reach a height of around 40 feet.

*Niwaki* establishes a plan for the future to ensure that the tree's shape will continue to function within the framework of the garden design. There are two major pruning seasons in Japanese gardens—fall and spring. Fall pruning lays the structural groundwork for spring by heading back last season's growth and doing any major branch selection. Spring maintenance is done on the sculptured pines and maples to trim off most of the vigorous early spring growth, saving the tree's energy for the second half of the growing season. This allows the late summer growth to come out finer with closer node lengths, the painstakingly sought-after type of branching in *niwaki* pruning. The beautiful fine branch structure silhouetted in fall and winter is the result of spring pruning.

The multitude of rules and considerations to follow when grooming trees in the Japanese garden all focus on accomplishing the primary goal of creating a miniaturized

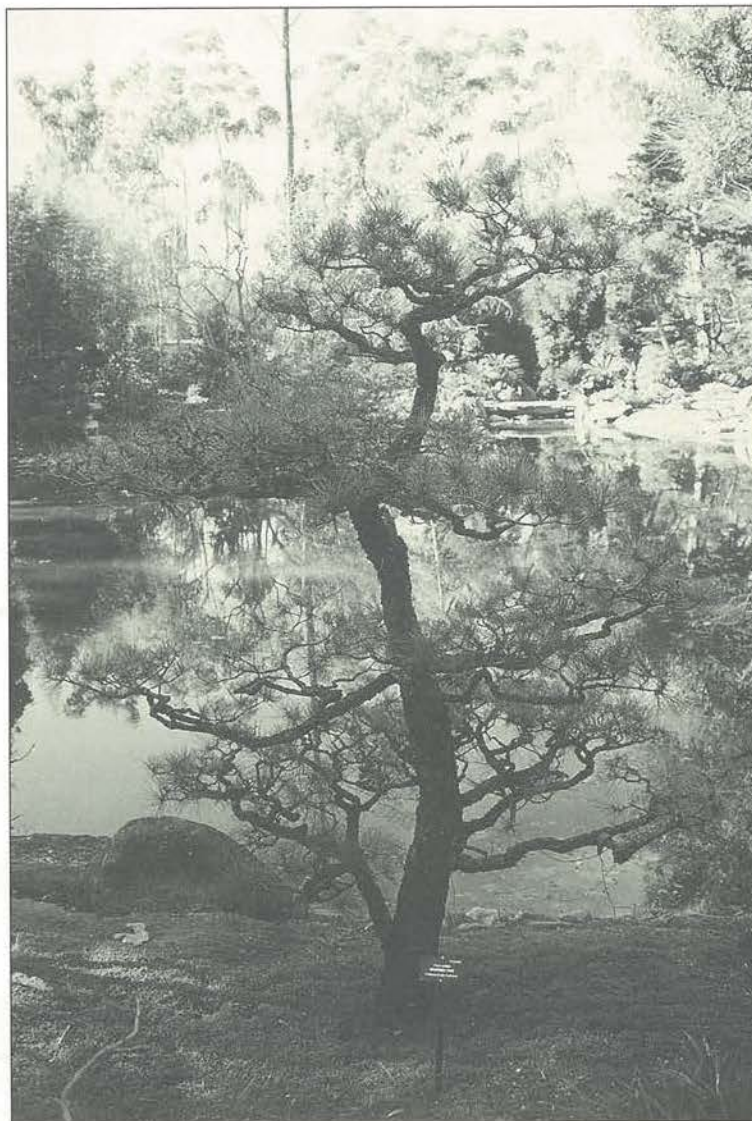
landscape for meditation purposes, imitating something you would find in nature. The aesthetic ideals strived for are experienced more on a subconscious level, and there are specific guidelines to help determine which structural elements to design toward and what stylistic goal you wish the tree's shape to achieve. Whether formal upright, informal upright, cascade or semi-cascade, or a mounded half-sphere shape, the ultimate design will emphasize the tree's essence—which is the trunk, not the foliage.



What makes our trees in the Japanese garden such beautiful pieces of living sculpture is the loving care lavished on them over the years; the fact that someone tended the trees throughout times of social chaos and natural disaster ensuring that they are here for us to enjoy today. The human interaction with nature provided by garden caretakers such as Frank Fujii, who have cared for the daily needs of these trees for so many years, provides the true essence of what you see and feel as you walk through this garden.

Please join Lotusland Japanese garden specialist Frank Fujii and his apprentices Disa Lindberg-Perkins and Terri Clay this spring for a unique and fascinating workshop. Frank Fujii helped design the Japanese garden for Madame Walska between 1968 and 1974 and has been contributing his expertise ever since. An introductory presentation on *niwaki* techniques in the sunken drawing room will be followed by Japanese style tea on the pavilion patio, culminating in this rare opportunity to interact with our horticultural experts and observe firsthand a *niwaki* demonstration in Lotusland's exquisite Japanese garden. Saturday, May 27, 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Please sign up using the coupon on page 15.

—Disa Lindberg-Perkins  
and Connie Buxton  
Photo and illustration by  
Disa Lindberg-Perkins



*Informal upright niwaki with alternate branch structure and asymmetrical triangular overall shape in theory (diagram above) and practice (photo).*



# Members' Family Day at Lotusland

SATURDAY, APRIL 29 • 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

*This event is offered free to Lotusland members and their families, thanks to the generosity and support of*

## *The Robert & Christine Emmons Foundation*

*Lotusland wishes to thank you, our members, for your support by hosting our third annual members' family day. Everyone is invited, especially kids under 10!*

- Activities will include:**
- BOXTALES with Michael Katz in the theatre garden  
11 to 11:30 a.m. & 2:30 to 3 p.m.
  - Games and crafts from the garden for children and adults  
10 to 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 to 3 p.m.
  - Horticulture Hunt: follow clues to find plants in the garden and win a prize morning and afternoon
  - Free silly souvenir photographs by Robert DeBris (all day)
  - Live music on the main lawn, featuring *The Klezmotones* from noon to 2 p.m.
  - Picnic lunches, cake and drinks on the main lawn from noon to 2 p.m.

*Box lunches for adults and children may be purchased when you make your reservation, or guests are welcome to bring their own picnic lunches. Cake and beverages will be provided for all. Picnic (packing) blankets will be provided to everyone, courtesy of Mammoth Moving & Storage.*

### MEMBERS' FAMILY DAY IS FREE!

But you must make a reservation by mail. We expect this event to fill very quickly, and space is limited. Please complete and mail the coupon below to reserve your space and to purchase box lunches.

## RESERVATION FORM

**MEMBERS' FAMILY DAY IS FREE, WITH A RESERVATION.** To reserve space for you and your family, complete this coupon and mail it to: Ganna Walska Lotusland, Attn: Member Events, 695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108. *No phone reservations, please. Confirmations will be sent upon our receipt of your reservation.*

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults attending \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Kids attending \_\_\_\_\_ Number of cars \_\_\_\_\_

*You may bring your own picnic or order Box Lunches here:*

Box Lunches: Adult's lunch \$12 each \_\_\_\_\_

Kid's lunch \$ 6 each \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

*Payment Method:*

Check enclosed  VISA  MasterCard

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

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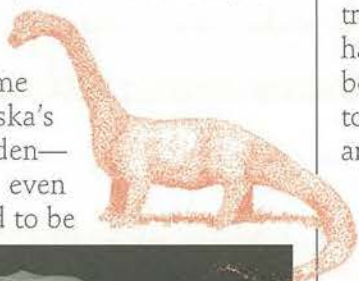
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Topiary Garden Restoration in Honor of Carol Valentine

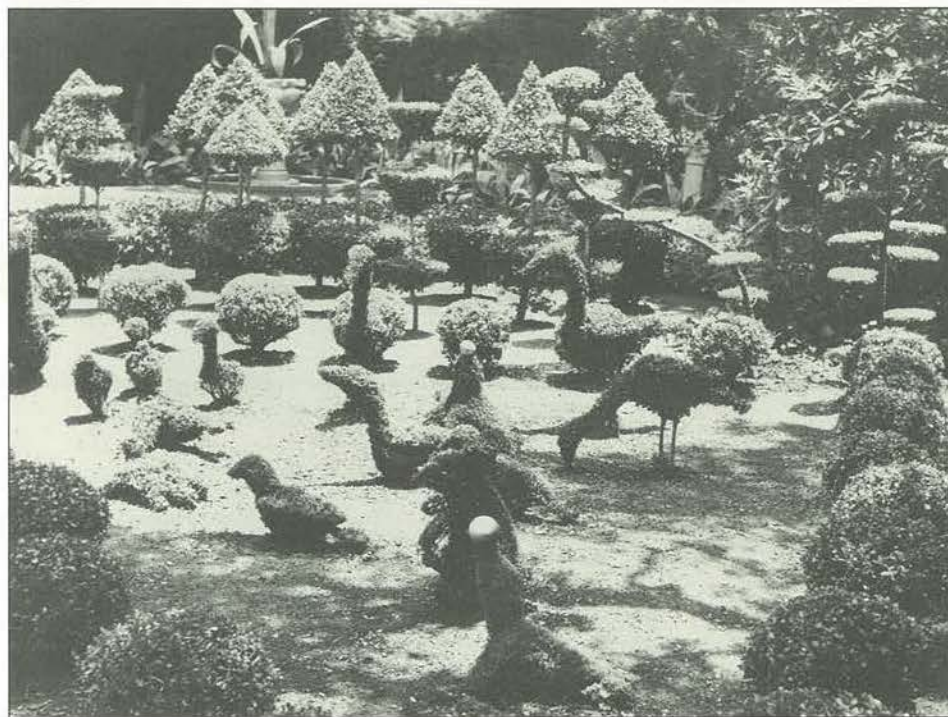


IN THE EARLY 1950s, planting beds designated for topiary were part of Ralph Stevens' design for an extension of the existing formal garden that would center on Madame Walska's horticultural clock. She may have become impatient with this large-scale scheme, or may have rejected it completely. In any case, once the clock was completed in 1955, Madame Walska began to acquire topiary from the Ozaki Plant Zoo in Los Angeles. Within two years, there were 36 fully grown topiary animals (some as tall as eight feet) planted around the clock and in adjacent beds. Over the years, the zoo declined, and by the time of her death in 1984 most of the figures were gone.

Today, Lotusland is very pleased to be in the process of raising the necessary funds to re-store Madame Ganna Walska's Topiary Garden—and we are even more pleased to be



Carol Valentine.



Madame Walska's topiary zoo as it looked circa 1958.

LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

restoring the garden in honor of Carol Valentine. Carol is a founding trustee of Lotusland Foundation and has served as the President of its board since 1989. Her contributions to the community of Santa Barbara are numerous. She has been board President of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and was the 1995 recipient of the Museum's prestigious Wright S. Ludington award. She has also served on the boards of the Music Academy of the West, the Esperia Foundation, the Boys Club of Santa Barbara, the Episcopal Church Home for Children in Pasadena, and as the President and a director of the Montecito Water District for 16 years.

This summer at *Lotusland Celebrates* we plan to announce to Carol and the community that the restoration of the Topiary Garden can commence because we have reached our fund-raising goal of \$350,000. We have a stunning new Topiary



Garden design produced by Lori Ann David, whose design for the horticultural clock was completed in 1998 thanks to a generous grant from the Towbes Foundation. The stage is now set for a wonderful restoration of the topiary figures, bringing Madame Walska's topiary zoo back to life.

If you would like more information about the Topiary Garden Restoration project, please call Anne Dewey, Director of Development, at (805) 969-3767 ext. 225.



Arthur Gaudi and Jeanne Thayer, co-chairs of the Lotusland Topiary Garden Restoration Campaign.



# Garden Tours with Virginia Hayes

## PRIVATE GARDENS WITH VIRGINIA, APRIL 8TH

EVEN IN SANTA BARBARA where our gardens can look fabulous most of the year, there is something special about Spring. It is a great time to spend a day outdoors, contemplating Mother Nature's bounty. Saturday, April 8th, Curator Virginia Hayes will once again escort a small group on a tour of private gardens in the Santa Barbara area. From a cozy Mission Canyon hideaway to a Montecito desert-scape, the day promises to be filled with plants, design ideas, and just plain good company. The tour starts at the Lotusland Visitor's Center where we step on the bus at 9:30 AM and ends back at Lotusland at 4:00 PM. Admission is \$75.00 and includes all transportation, entrance fees, and a delectable lunch. The bus fills up quickly, so reserve your place early by using the coupon on page 15.

## PRIVATE JAPANESE GARDENS WITH VIRGINIA, JUNE 24TH

FOR CENTURIES, THE ORIENT was mysterious to westerners because of the difficulty entailed in visiting it. Even today Japanese and Chinese culture and art can seem very removed from our exuberant American ways. Landscape designs notable for their restraint and simplicity characterize our tour destinations on Saturday, June 24th. Come discover the tranquility and escape offered by gardens inspired by these oriental sensibilities. Our day-long odyssey from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM begins and ends at Lotusland. Coach transportation, entrance fees, and lunch are included in the \$75.00 registration fee. Sign up soon, using the coupon on page 15.



HIROSHIGE

Visit Japanese-style private gardens—characterized by their restraint, simplicity, and tranquility—in the Santa Barbara area with curator Virginia Hayes this June.



## Mother's Day Tour and Tea

TREAT YOUR MOM, grandmom, or someone else important in your life to a wonderful gift this Mother's Day — a special tour of the garden on Saturday, May 13 (the day before Mother's Day), 1–4:30 PM. Tea and refreshments will be served on the terrace.

Cost: \$12 for adult members and their guests, \$6 for all kids under 10, kids under 2 are free. Adult non-members, \$15.

To make reservations for the tour and tea, complete this coupon and mail it to:

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



### RESERVATIONS REQUESTED FOR TOUR AND TEA

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult member reservations x \$12 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Kids reservations x \$6 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult non-member reservations x \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Kids under 2 reservations = FREE

### PAYMENT METHOD

Check Enclosed     VISA     MasterCard    Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_



# Lotusland in Print

TWO NEW BOOKS FEATURE THE GARDEN



*Gardens of Obsession: Eccentric and Extravagant Visions* by Gordon Taylor & Guy Cooper. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1999.

Most gardeners tend to be conservative, accepting new trends only after they become conventional and adhering to current concepts of good design and good taste. *Gardens of Obsession* is about a different breed of gardeners: the eccentrics who reject the conventional and are driven by a personal vision or passion.

Taylor and Cooper operate a landscape design firm based in London. They also co-write books and articles on gardens, and Cooper lectures internationally. About half of the gardens in this book are in the United Kingdom, but every continent is represented. The 27 North American gardens are all in the United States, including one of the most ambitious projects, the Deaf School Topiary Park in Columbus, Ohio, which recreates the scene depicted in the George Seurat painting, *Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*.

Madame Ganna Walska is featured in Chapter 4: Rare Plants and Giant Vegetables; she is grouped with specialist growers of orchids and carnivorous plants and those who produce prize-winning giant vegetables. The brief biographical sketch of Madame Walska is accurate, but only hints at her compulsive drive for perfection in the garden. The three photographs reveal some of Lotusland's captivating qualities, although readers who are familiar with the garden may find the unfortunate reversal of photographic images disconcerting.

Four chapters focus on gardens that feature art works, or are them-

selves works of art. These include a Los Angeles gardener who commissions realistic bronze sculptures of endangered wild animals, an English Enchanted Forest, designed to provide a surreal experience for guests, and the self-expressive gardens of numerous artists. It is interesting to compare artists' attitudes toward their work. The creators of two gardens like to contemplate what future archaeologists will make of their quirky constructions. On the other hand, the English groundsman who uses a broom to create patterns in the dew-covered grass of a bowling green is unconcerned that his designs last only until the sun dries away the dew.

Critics might quibble that some of the obsessions scarcely qualify as gardens. Some contemporary landscape practitioners also might take offense at the inclusion of formal gardens and topiary as obsessive forms of gardening. But for those of us who adhere to more conventional gardening techniques, this book offers an opportunity to peer over the garden wall and marvel at how amazingly diverse gardens can be.



*Japanese-Style Gardens of the Pacific West Coast* by Kendall H. Brown. New York: Rizzoli, 1999.

As its title implies, Brown's book describes and gives the history of 20 Japanese-style gardens, ranging from San Diego, California to Vancouver, British Columbia. The gardens are not arranged geographically, however, but in the order they were built: from the Japanese Tea Garden at Golden Gate Park, San Francisco (1894) to California Scenario, South Coast Plaza Town Center, Costa Mesa (1980). Instead of detailed descriptions, Brown defers to Melba Levick's excellent photographs to supplement the text. Brown's concern is to relate the individual gardens and their designers to a comprehensive history of Japanese garden development in America.

But this book is more than a garden history. An art historian, Brown is conversant with Japanese art and culture, but he also delves into issues of cultural geography and history. Philosophically, Brown believes that a true Japanese garden cannot exist anywhere except in Japan. That is why he uses "Japanese-Style" to describe the gardens that he considers American constructs—not Japanese garden reproductions, but rather "translations" of Japanese design concepts. Their significance, he says, is "as part of the cultural context of North American attitudes toward Japan." Brown's mission, then, is to help the reader comprehend the social and political role of Japanese-style gardens in the assimilation and acceptance of Japanese immigrants into American culture. Throughout the 20th century, American attitudes toward Japanese culture fluctuated between infatuation and abhorrence.

Japanese artistry was admired and copied, but Japanese immigrants of the 1920s and 30s could not own property or become citizens. They emphasized their positive traits, making good use of their garden skills to gain acceptance in American society. With the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese residents lost all that they had achieved; yet they built gardens in the relocation camps to help maintain their spirits.

Brown points out that most early Japanese-style gardens made claims to an authenticity that did not actually exist, while those of recent decades unabashedly merge Japanese tradition with Western plants and design concepts. Brown approves of this honestly expressed synthesis of cultures. His thoughtful appraisal of the cultural value of Japanese-style gardens in a complex society should be required reading for anyone who believes that garden making is a trivial or culturally insignificant activity.

—Sharon Crawford

## Self-Guided Tours for Members

ARE YOU A LEVEL II MEMBER of Friends of Lotusland?

If so, we encourage you to take advantage of the privilege of self-guided tours of Lotusland. Make reservations to visit the garden on your own. Self-guided tours can be scheduled on the following days and times. Call Lotusland Reservations at 969-9990, 9 AM to 12 PM during the week and ask for a self-guided tour.

February 25, Friday . . . . . 1:30–4:00  
 March 11, Saturday . . . 10:00–12:30  
 March 23, Thursday . . . . 1:30–4:00  
 April 8, Saturday . . . . . 1:30–4:00  
 April 19, Wednesday . . 10:00–12:30  
 May 6, Saturday . . . . . 1:30–4:00  
 May 26, Friday . . . . . 10:00–12:30  
 June 3, Saturday . . . . . 10:00–12:30  
 June 29, Thursday . . . . . 1:30–4:00  
 July 12, Wednesday . . . . 1:30–4:00  
 July 22, Saturday . . . . . 10:00–12:30

August 3, Thursday . . . 10:00–12:30  
 August 19, Saturday . . . . 1:30–4:00  
 September 8, Friday . . . 10:00–12:30  
 September 23, Saturday . . 1:30–4:00  
 October 14, Saturday . . 10:00–12:30  
 October 25, Wednesday . . 1:30–4:00  
 November 4, Saturday . . . 1:30–4:00

ARE YOU A FRIEND OF LOTUSLAND at Level III, Level IV, or Garden Benefactor?

In addition to these self-guided-only tour days, Friends of Lotusland at Levels III, IV, and Garden Benefactor may make reservations for a self-guided (or if you prefer, a docent-led) tour—anytime that the garden is open to the public: Wednesday through Saturday at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM, mid-February to mid-November. An admission fee is charged, but member passes may be used. Levels IV and Garden Benefactor have unlimited free admission.

### SAVE THE DATE

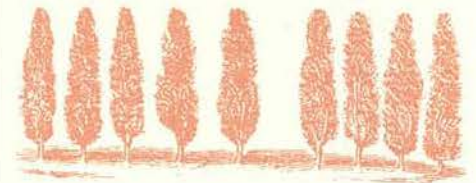
## Santa Barbara Gardens Art Sale and Book Signing

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2000, Lotusland will host a premier art sale and book signing. Join publisher Ellen Easton, author Sharon Crawford (also author of *Ganna Walska Lotusland—The Garden and its Creators*), and local *plein air* artists for the debut of their new book *Santa Barbara Gardens* (working title). Dr. Eric T. Haskell, Professor of French and Humanities at Scripps University, who wrote the foreword for the book, will present a short lecture on Santa Barbara gardens in the Theatre Garden and join in the signing. This will be the only signing for *Santa Barbara Gardens*, a history of Santa Barbara gardens from the Mission era to present day illustrated with contemporary paintings.

Original works from the book by such popular artists as Arturo Tello, Meredith Brooks Abbott, Glenna Hartmann, Richard Schloss, Whitney Brooks Abbott, and many more, will be available for purchase.

Plan to join us in October for this extraordinary afternoon of art—and take home a *Santa Barbara Garden*. A portion of the proceeds of the sale of books and works of art will benefit Lotusland. Invitations will be mailed in the fall to all Friends of Lotusland and patrons of The Easton Gallery.

## Earth Day



LOTUSLAND'S PLANT COLLECTIONS include many non-native, rare, and/or endangered species; it is not your ordinary backyard garden. Considering how lush and healthy these plants are, you might be surprised to learn that they are kept that way using only the certified organically based materials for pest and disease control that are part of an overall commitment to sustainable gardening methods.

If Lotusland can be kind to the earth and have a beautiful, healthy garden, so can you!! Learn how you can maintain your garden in optimum health using sustainable gardening methods. Please join us on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22nd, at Santa Barbara City College from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.



# Friends of Lotusland

We Welcome New Members Who Joined in November, December 1999, January 2000

## LEVEL I

Dr. & Mrs. Akeel Alsadi  
 Ms. Elaine Altemus  
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Anson  
 Ms. Mary Lou Ardohain  
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Armbrust  
 Ms. Marilyn J. Armstrong  
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian Baird  
 Ms. Stephanie Bishop  
 Ms. Marlene Breene  
 Ms. Suzanne P. Bunzel  
 Ms. Jean Campbell  
 Ms. Virginia Chennell  
 Mrs. Aaron Clark  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph L. Cole  
 Ms. Julie Connor  
 Ms. Carole Cowen  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Duncan  
 Ms. Harriet E. Earle  
 Ms. Wendy Edlen  
 Ms. Beatrice Ernst  
 Ms. Jennifer Fain  
 Ms. Barbara Fier  
 Ms. Virginia L. Franks  
 Ms. Gloria Galetka  
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Gibblings  
 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Glavin  
 Ms. Doris Goldstein  
 Mr. Steve Good  
 Ms. Jane Y. Granite  
 Jean Gurnee & Kim Gurnee  
 Ms. Michele Harmer  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Herman  
 Mr. Ven-Hsao Hsiao  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gary Johnston  
 Ms. Ruth P. Jones  
 Ms. Madeline Kauffman  
 Ms. Linda Kelly  
 Mr. Robert Kemp  
 Ms. LaRae Kirkhart  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gary Kravetz  
 Mr. Toby Kruse  
 Ms. Judith S. Kugel  
 Ms. Karen LaBossiere &  
 Ms. Alleyne LaBossiere  
 Dr. Jim Long  
 Ms. Ksenia Luchkowska  
 Mr. Tim Lukaszewski  
 Ms. Carol Maddon  
 Ms. Joanne Martinez  
 Ms. Rose Martinson  
 Ms. Allyn McReynolds  
 Ms. Joyce Metz  
 Ms. Telia Montgomery  
 Mr. & Mrs. Sean O'Shea  
 Ms. Ellen Pardo  
 Mr. Danny Paulin  
 Mr. & Mrs. Darryl Perlin

Ms. A. Lea Phelps  
 Ms. Diana Platt  
 Mr. & Mrs. Harold O. Pool, Jr.  
 Isaac Ramirez Family  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Reid  
 Ms. Victoria Roberts &  
 Mr. C. James Carpenter  
 Ms. Naomi Schwartz  
 Barbara, Gene & Matt Sequeira  
 Ms. Janet Shapiro  
 Mr. Paul W. Shaw &  
 Ms. Jeanine A. Derby  
 Ms. JoAnn Slattery &  
 Mr. Ken Simpson  
 Ms. Cherie Smith  
 Ms. Kristin Snyder-Heath  
 Mr. Tom B. Stephenson &  
 Ms. Ruth A. Rogers  
 Ms. Treva Tilden  
 Mr. Tom Valva  
 Ms. Brigitta Van Der Raay  
 Ms. Dionne Van Meter  
 Mr. George White &  
 Mr. Robert Overstreet  
 Ms. Barbara Widstrand  
 Mr. & Mrs. Cole Williams  
 Ms. Carol Wilson  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Wolfe  
 Ms. Wendy Wright

## LEVEL II

Ms. Carol Alford  
 Ms. Sandy Andelman &  
 Mr. Rudolf Nottrott  
 Dr. & Mrs. Greg Aposperis  
 Ms. Alice Rawlings Borgeson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Burkemper  
 Ms. Kimberly Cooke  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ron Dale

Mr. Thom Dorich  
 Mr. & Mrs. Craig Fry  
 Mr. Frank D. Goss  
 Ms. Cynthia Hall  
 Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Hallenbeck  
 Mr. Troy Hoidal  
 Ms. Dee Jennings  
 Mr. Norman King  
 Ms. Antoinette I. Kiraly  
 Mr. Eugene C. Loring  
 Ms. Dorothy Lucas  
 Mr. Ron Macleod  
 Ms. Joie McKay &  
 Ms. Jolan Warinner  
 Ms. Phoebe Connor McKenzie  
 Mr. & Mrs. James C. Mitchell  
 Ms. Patricia A. Myers  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Perkins  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Pfeiffer  
 Mr. Carlos Quintero  
 Mr. & Mrs. Barry Silverman  
 Ms. Mary Belle Snow  
 Ms. Sharon Snure  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Stearns  
 Ms. Rebecca Stebbins &  
 Mr. John Mosby  
 Ms. Nina Terzian  
 Mr. & Mrs. Keith Topping  
 Mr. Robert Westwick  
 Ms. Cynthia Wick &  
 Mr. Channing Gibson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Alan York

## LEVEL III

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Davis  
 Ms. Donna Deitch  
 Mr. Jophe Jones  
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Ovadia  
 Ms. Gail Thompson

## Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

November, December 1999, January 2000

### DECORATIVE TILES FROM THE ESTATE OF GANNA WALSKA

Dr. & Mrs. A.E. Amorteguy

### MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Susan Grayson  
 Mr. William Hanson  
 Ms. Carolyn Kincaid  
 Mrs. Elise Mudd Marvin  
 Ms. Phoebe Connor McKenzie  
 Mr. & Mrs. David Mills  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Rex

Mr. H. Smith Richardson  
 Ms. Mary Rose  
 Ms. Diane Ruch &  
 Mr. Peter Bergsman  
 Ms. Wanda Schenk  
 Dr. Kenneth Serkes  
 Mr. Gordon E. Stoppel  
 Mrs. Edward R. Valentine  
 Mr. & Mrs. Sander Vanocur

### GARDEN SHOP & LIBRARY

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Hillemann

**Private Gardens**

With VIRGINIA HAYES

Saturday, April 3, 2000

9:30 AM to 4:00 PM • \$75.00/person

INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION, ENTRANCE FEES, AND LUNCH

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_

**Private Japanese Gardens**

With VIRGINIA HAYES

Saturday, June 24, 2000

9:30 AM to 4:00 PM • \$75.00/person

INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION, ENTRANCE FEES, AND LUNCH

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_

**Niwaki Techniques Workshop**

With FRANK FUJII

Saturday, May 27, 2000

1:00 to 4:00 PM • \$12.00/person

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form**

## PAYMENT METHOD:

 Check enclosed  Free admission pass enclosed  VISA  MasterCard

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Member name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*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**November, December 1999,  
January 2000**LEVEL II**

Ms. Marya A. Bammer  
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Brown  
 Mr. Jeff Chemnick  
 Ms. Joan Churchill  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Compton  
 Mr. Peter J. Granz  
 Ms. Whitney Hansen  
 Ms. Leticia Harper  
 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Jay  
 Mr. & Mrs. Rand Molnar  
 Ms. Diane Reilly  
 Mr. George Schoellkopf  
 Mr. & Mrs. David Van Horne

**LEVEL III**

Dr. & Mrs. A.E. Amorteguy  
 Judge & Mrs. John G. Davies  
 Mr. & Mrs. Arent H. Schuyler, Jr.  
 Mr. Michael Vorhaus

**LEVEL IV**

Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Dalseme  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Dehlsen  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Nicholson

**A Dewey Decade**

ANNE DEWEY, Lotusland's new Director of Development, was recently awarded her Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) designation. She joins more than 4,000 professionals around the world who hold the designation. Individuals granted the CFRE credential have met a series of standards set by the CFRE Board that include tenure in the profession, professional achievements, education, and a commitment to service to not-for-profit organizations. Candidates must pass a written examination testing for the knowledge, skills, and abilities required of a fund-raising executive. Anne began working for Lotusland in 1990 as Assistant to the Director and soon became the Assistant Director, supervising all of Lotusland's public programs. Anne came to Lotusland with a background in marketing and management, having worked in programming for PBS in Arizona, as an associate producer for a television production company in Santa Barbara, and as a marketing coordinator for a national environmental consulting firm with offices in Santa Barbara. Anne's eleven-year-old son, Will, practically grew up at Lotusland (lucky kid!) and her husband is the renowned Santa



WM. B. DEWEY

Barbara and Lotusland photographer, William B. Dewey. When asked about her tenure at Lotusland, Anne said, "Lotusland is the best non-profit in Santa Barbara to work for, everyone—the board, the staff, the volunteers, the friends of the garden—they're all top notch, generous, experienced, competent, and, most of all, they're fun to work with. Everyone here believes in Lotusland and Madame Walska's vision and everyone gives you a chance to learn and grow."

# Gianna Walska Lotusland Foundation

695 Ashley Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

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## Member Events

MANY LOTUSLAND EVENTS are open to non-members. Also, this year there are more opportunities to bring children to the garden. Kids and grandkids are welcome at some events and can visit the garden with you on our new Family Tour days. For information about Family Tours, call Lotusland reservations, 969-9990 between 9 AM and 12 PM.

### April 8, Saturday

9 AM-4 PM

#### *Private Gardens with Virginia Hayes*

The curator of Lotuslands' living collection offers her justifiably popular tour of local private gardens. Coupon on page 15.

MEMBERS \$75, NONMEMBERS \$80

### April 29, Saturday

10 AM-4 PM

#### *Members' Family Day*

Fun and educational activities for the entire family. Picnic lunch on the lawn with music and entertainment. Reservation form on page 9.

FREE TO MEMBERS

### May 3, Saturday

1-4:30 PM

#### *Mother's Day Tour and Tea*

Treat your mom, grandmom, or someone special in your life to a tour of the garden followed by an old-fashioned tea on the Main House terrace. Kids welcome. Coupon on page 11.

ADULT MEMBERS \$12, ALL KIDS UNDER 10 \$6, KIDS UNDER 2 Free, ADULT NONMEMBERS \$15

### May 27, Saturday

1-4 PM

#### *Niwaki Techniques in Lotusland's Japanese Garden*

Explore design elements of *niwaki*—specialized pruning used to dwarf various specimens of trees. An introduction to pruning techniques will be followed by Japanese tea on the pavilion patio and our master gardeners demonstrating *niwaki* techniques in the Japanese Garden. Coupon on page 15.

MEMBERS \$12, NONMEMBERS \$15

### June 17, Saturday

1-4:30 PM

#### *Self-guided tours for all members*

Call reservations.

MEMBERS \$10 or free admission pass

### June 24, Saturday

9 AM-4 PM

#### *Private Japanese Gardens with Virginia Hayes*

Our plant curator offers a tour of local private Japanese gardens. Coupon on page 15.

MEMBERS \$75, NONMEMBERS \$80

### July 16, Sunday

4-8 PM

#### *Lotusland Celebrates*

*The Topiary Garden Restoration*

This year's gala will celebrate the completion of the capital campaign to restore Madame Walska's topiary garden in honor of Carol Valentine. Invitations mailed to all members in June. TICKETS \$175

### August 26, Saturday

10 AM-4 PM

#### *LotusFest!*

The first annual lotus festival—a full day of fun and education for the whole family honoring our lotus at the peak of their bloom. Lunch will be available for purchase or bring a picnic. Coupon in Summer Newsletter.

ADULT MEMBERS \$20, ALL KIDS UNDER 10 \$10, KIDS UNDER 2 Free, ADULT NONMEMBERS \$25

### September 30, Saturday

1-4:30 PM

#### *Self-guided tours for all members*

Call reservations.

MEMBERS \$10 or free admission pass

### October 7, Saturday

#### *Santa Barbara Gardens*

#### *Art sale and book signing*

Takes place of Music in the Theater Garden. Invitations to all members mailed in September.