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SAVE THE DATE: September 26-28, 2008 CGLHS Annual Conference at Lone Pine

Spirit of Landscape: California's Lower Owens River Valley

The Annual Conference of the California Garden & Landscape History Society will celebrate the beauty and diversity of the landscape of California's Eastern Sierra. We will explore art forms inspired by this dramatic mountain, desert and river valley landscape through talks and tours. The conference will focus on the literature of Mary Austin, western films, local native plant gardens, and the gardens created by Japanese Americans during their World War II internment at Manzanar. We will also learn about the great changes wrought on this landscape both by the diversion of the water from the Owens River into the Los Angeles aqueducts and by the current re-watering of the Lower Owens River.

Oops!

Please note that in our last issue, we made errors both as to the correct date and title of our 2008 conference. The information above is correct. Profuse apologies. – Ed.

Kenneth Helphand, professor of landscape architecture at the University of Oregon and author of the award-winning *Defiant Gardens: Making Gardens in Wartime* (Trinity University Press, 2006), will give a keynote talk at the Manzanar National Historic Site near Independence. Manzanar was one of ten internment camps in the U.S. that held Americans of Japanese descent and resident Japanese citizens during World War II. Richard Potashin, Manzanar landscape specialist, will lead us on a tour of some of the remnants of the astonishing gardens built by the internees. These gardens range from multi-acre Merritt Park to small ornamental gardens outside individual barracks.

Additional highlights of the conference will include: a visit to the Mary DeDecker Native Plant Garden at the Eastern California Museum in the nearby town of Independence; a film screening and talk by Chris Langley of the Lone Pine Museum of Film History; a tour with Chris of the Alabama Hills, the location for 400-plus western films,

television serials and advertisements over the last century; and a talk on the great poet of this land, Mary Austin (1868-1934), who lived in Independence in the early part of the last century.

We'll also hear naturalist Mike Prather speak of the recovering ecosystem along a portion of the Lower Owens River. The river disappeared in 1913 when water was diverted to the Los Angeles Aqueduct. In December 2006, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power once again permitted water to flow.

Tentative Schedule

The conference will begin in Lone Pine on Friday afternoon with a tour of the Alabama Hills, led by Chris Langley. Chances are that if you ever watched "The Lone Ranger" on television or saw John Wayne swagger across the big screen at your local theater, you have at least vicariously experienced the Alabama Hills. The first film ever shot there was "The Round-Up" (1920), a silent film starring the soon to be disgraced

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Conference 2008 (continued)

Fatty Arbuckle. After viewing at first hand such famous sites as the Randolph Scott Rock and Lone Ranger Canyon, we will gather at the Museum of Lone Pine Film History for a casual outdoor dinner, tour the museum and view one of the many films made in the area.

On Saturday morning, we will check in at Manzanar and enjoy a Continental breakfast before carpooling for a quick on-your-own tour of the internment center. We will meet back at the auditorium for an introduction to Manzanar by Richard Potashin, followed by Professor Helphand's keynote address. Potashin will then guide us through the gardens of Manzanar. Following a picnic lunch at this national historic site, we'll regroup at the Eastern California Museum, tour the Mary DeDecker Native Plant Garden, and hear Paula Panich talk about Mary Austin. The CGLHS Annual Meeting will be held later that afternoon.

On Sunday morning we'll meet at the Inter-Agency Visitor Center south of Lone Pine to hear Mike Prather discuss the restoration of the Lower Owens River. The controversy surrounding Los Angeles' acquisition of water rights for the construction of its Owens Valley Aqueduct in the early 1900s is relatively well known. The "Owens Valley Water War" has been the subject of numerous books, articles and even films.

The program presentation by the Owens Valley Committee will include a guided tour of two large projects currently under way in the Owens Valley. At Owens Lake, dried years ago as a result of water diversions to Los Angeles, many square miles are now being shallow flooded to control the regional dust

"[Y]our true Californian prays to his land as much as ever the early Roman did, and pours on it libations of water and continuous incense of praise." — Mary Austin, 1914.

hazard. Attracted by the habitat created by the newly introduced water, thousands of migrating shorebirds and waterfowl are "rediscovering" Owens Lake each spring and fall. Nearly 200 snowy plover nests were located in 2003 and over 600 adult plovers were counted in 2004. The second project is the re-watering of 62 miles of the Lower Owens River above Owens Lake as mitigation by Los Angeles for severe damage caused by groundwater pumping to fill the second aqueduct in the 1970s. This unprecedented re-watering promises to restore miles of riparian habitat.

We hope you will join us in September at Lone Pine. The Eastern Sierra, from Yosemite National Park south to Death Valley National Park, has long been enjoyed by vacationers, naturalists and artists. The drive to this area from northern California is one of the most spectacular anywhere, crossing Yosemite and dropping down through the Tioga Pass to salty Mono Lake with its dramatic tufa formations. Potential extracurricular activities in this area extend from climbing nearby Mount Whitney, tallest point in the contiguous United States, to visiting Death Valley National Park, the lowest point in the U.S. Near the town of Bishop, you may see the oldest living organism, *Pinus longaeva*, the Bristlecone Pine. In the hills above Mono Lake, Bodie State Historic Park offers a well preserved ghost town that once held a mining population of 10,000.

Our Speakers

Chris Langley is a native New Yorker, born on Long Island. He graduated from Dartmouth College, served as a Peace Corp Volunteer in Iran and was a teacher for 35 years. He now serves as Inyo County Film Commissioner, Executive Director of the Beverly and Jim Rogers Museum of Lone Pine Film History and Director of the Lone Pine Film Festival, celebrating its 19th annual event this October. He recently published a history of Lone Pine for the Arcadia Images of America series and has finished writing "An Epic and Intimate Landscape: the Film History of Lone Pine, Death Valley and the Eastern Sierra."

Richard Potashin recently married fellow National Park Service ranger Nancy Hallock. Between them they have 32 years of service in the agency. Potashin is a long-time resident in the Eastern Sierras and has become something of a specialist in taking oral histories. He and other rangers took 56 histories of Manzanar inhabitants in 2006, and he has taken others from Inyo County residents as well. He has been active in the Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and the Mono Lake Committee. His current interest is discovering and documenting aspen carvings in the region; he has given talks to local groups on the subject of "Arborglyphs and Aspen Natural History."

Kenneth Helphand has taught courses in landscape history, theory

Conference 2008 (continued)

and design at the University of Oregon since 1974. He is a graduate of Brandeis University (1968) and Harvard's Graduate School of Design (MLA, 1972). He is also the author of numerous articles and reviews on topics in landscape history and theory, with a particular interest in contemporary American landscapes. Other books by Helphand include *Colorado: Visions of an American Landscape* (1991); *Yard, Street, Park: The Design of Suburban Open Space* (with Cynthia Girling, 1994); and *Dreaming Gardens: Landscape Architecture & the Making of Modern Israel* (2002).

Paula Panich is a writer and teacher. She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in fiction from the Warren Wilson Program for Writers in Swannoa, North Carolina

and a degree in history from Arizona State University. She has a particular passion for the landscape of New England and the American West, and is a contributing writer to the *New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times*, as well as to travel, horticultural and consumer magazines. Her book *Cultivating Words: The Guide to Writing about the Plants and Gardens You Love* was published by Tryphon Press in 2005. She has taught writing at many locations around the country including the Getty Center and the Huntington Library here in California. In 2006, Paula was a speaker at the "Edith Wharton and the American Garden" conference at The Mount in Lenox, Massachusetts. She fell under the spell of Mary Austin about a decade ago upon reading *The Land of Little Rain*.

Mike Prather has been residing in Inyo County since 1972, when he and his wife Nancy moved to Death Valley to teach in a one-room schoolhouse. Mike has actively been working on land and water issues in the Owens Valley since 1980 with the Owens Valley Committee (he is a past president), the Eastern Sierra Audubon Society (past president) and the Sierra Club (past chapter chair). The enhancement and protection of the Owens River and Owens Lake Important Bird Area attracts more of his current efforts.

Conference Registration

Registration forms will be available by May 1st to download from our website, www.cglhs.org. To receive a copy by snail mail, call Conference Coordinator Aaron Landworth at 310.453.1180. As more information on the conference

becomes available it will be posted on the website. A block of rooms has been set aside for conference attendees at the Dow Villa in Lone Pine. You must reserve your room *no later than August 29* to receive our special group rate. Accommodations are limited in tiny Lone Pine. Contact Yolanda Chavez, Manager, at 800.824.9317.

If you have questions about the conference, you can email conference@cglhs.org or call Conference Coordinator Aaron Landworth at 310.453.1180.



"The inscription on this monument reads, 'Memorial to the Dead.' Because of a lack of money and access to materials, most graves at Manzanar did not have monuments. This memorial was for all who were buried here." - August 18 1943 Manzanar Free Press.
(Photograph by Ansel Adams, originally published in *Born Free and Equal* [1944].)

Theodore Payne, 1872-1963

Part II: Sussex to Los Feliz

Marie Ingram

(This article is reprinted with permission of the author from the British gardening journal *Hortus* No. 27 [Autumn 1993]).

Theodore Payne was the son of Priscilla and John Wells Payne who between them farmed Manor Farm, Church Brampton from 1871 until 1893. In 1871 Payne's father took over from *his* father and namesake a holding that had been worked by five generations of Quaker Paynes from 1791. The Payne farmhouse, as architecturally charming as E.M. Forster's Rooksnest in Hertfordshire, evokes that quintessential Englishness Forster celebrates so touchingly in *Howard's End*. It is worth remembering that the Society of Friends' doctrine of Divine Communion, Inward Light, encompasses cooperation with nature and faith in the Universe as a manifestation of the Spirit. When Theodore's father died in 1877 he left a widow and six sons. Theodore was five at the time, and the youngest. Taught at home by a governess, he was encouraged by his mother, aided and abetted by a much-thumbed copy of the Rev'd C.A. Johns's *Flowers of the Field* (1851, new edition 1884), to admire the beauty of wild flowers. Priscilla not only taught Theodore how to recognise wildlings in both Church and neighboring Chapel Brampton (only a step away from Lawrence Washington's last resting place among the Spencer monuments in the church of St Mary, Great Brington), but also how to keep his own small garden.

At twelve Theodore was sent, as his brothers before him, to Ackworth (established by the London Meeting of 1779), a

Quaker co-educational boarding school in Pontefract, Yorkshire. As a pupil here from 1884 to 1887, in addition to Scripture and Latin, he studied French, Mathematics, History, English Literature and Art (Drawing). Science had recently been introduced into the curriculum, and chemistry was taught in a makeshift laboratory constructed in 1881. Fortunately for Californians and adventurous gardeners the world over, Ackworth fully encouraged the boy's fascination with all things relating to Natural History.

In May 1888 his mother paid a £50 premium to apprentice her son to the Cheals at The Nurseries, Crawley, in Sussex. John Cheal (1800-1896) had started by farming at Lowfield Heath. When his two sons (Joseph and Alexander, born in 1848 and 1850) left school, John Cheal purchased and leased more land. By 1871 his sons had decided that horticulture suited them better than farming and, taking some four acres of land, began to grow trees. This was the small beginning of Lowfield Nurseries, soon to be the much respected firm of J. Cheal & Sons, Ltd., Nurserymen, Seedsmen, Sundriesmen, Landscape Gardeners, Garden Furnishers, and many times Chelsea Gold Medallists

According to his indentures, which were signed with the firmest of hands, the young Payne was apprenticed for three years and promised a thorough grounding in commercial horticulture. Cheals provided the usual food, clothing and lodging. During this period, an

apprentice was expected to work from six in the morning until seven each night and, if needed, later still. In exchange, Cheals gave a most comprehensive education in administration: how to deal with clients, keep books, issue invoices, prepare elaborate Victorian multi-type printed catalogues of trees, seeds, and garden sundries. On the nursery side, he was taught how to propagate plants and trees, harvest and process seeds, care for the seed warehouse, look after hot-bed dahlias and fruit. At the same time he was introduced to the many landscape problems inherent in drawing up and laying out home gardens, private estates, public grounds and parks, which would prove invaluable when he began to design public and private California gardens. Theodore remained with Cheals for four years. It is worth noting that grounds we now consider remarkable, such as Wakehurst, Nymans, Leondardslee, and Robinson's own shrine-like Gravetye Manor, were not remote from Crawley.

While he was at Cheals, Payne gained experience in propagating many California plants. Throughout his apprenticeship, and even before, he was familiar with Robinson's keen advocacy of both California flora and natural gardening. He was equally aware that 'natural' gardens in England did not emerge without effort and planning. Robinson had considered it imperative to bring in 120,000 trees by teams of horses when he initiated his natural garden at Gravetye!

Theodore Payne (continued)

Once fully trained, Theodore made the decision to up sticks and emigrate. He and his friend West Cove (who later settled in Hollywood) set out from England with Cove's wife and young daughter. The year he sailed to the United States was the same year the Payne family left Manor Farm and Church Brampton. He reached Chicago at the time of the Columbian Exposition of 1893 and it was here, celebrating his twenty-first birthday, that Payne, like so many other visitors to the Exposition, stood awe-struck – not from any quaking terror echoing Henry Adams's doubts about the futuristic dynamo, but by the rich promise held out by the California Pavilion. Here, as Los Angeles publicist Frank Wiggins put it succinctly, 'If you dangle a golden orange before the eyes of a Northern man you can lead him anywhere.' Some dubious land developers went so far as to tie oranges onto Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) in the Mohave, thus dazzling would-be purchasers into thinking they grew freely in the desert. This siren call of all things citrus echoes Mignon's 'land where the lemon-trees blossom, where the golden oranges glow in dark foliage,' enticing Goethe across the Alps to Italy; and poor Emma Bovary's romantic reverie of sailing 'away to lands with musical names...At sunset you breathe the scent of lemon trees on the shores of a bay...'

During the Chicago Exposition 375,000 oranges were given away, alluring tokens of what California had to offer northerners depressed by winter cold and seduced by promises of a 'Mediterranean-style English-speaking Earthly Paradiso.' The irrigation problems and costs attending citrus farming were

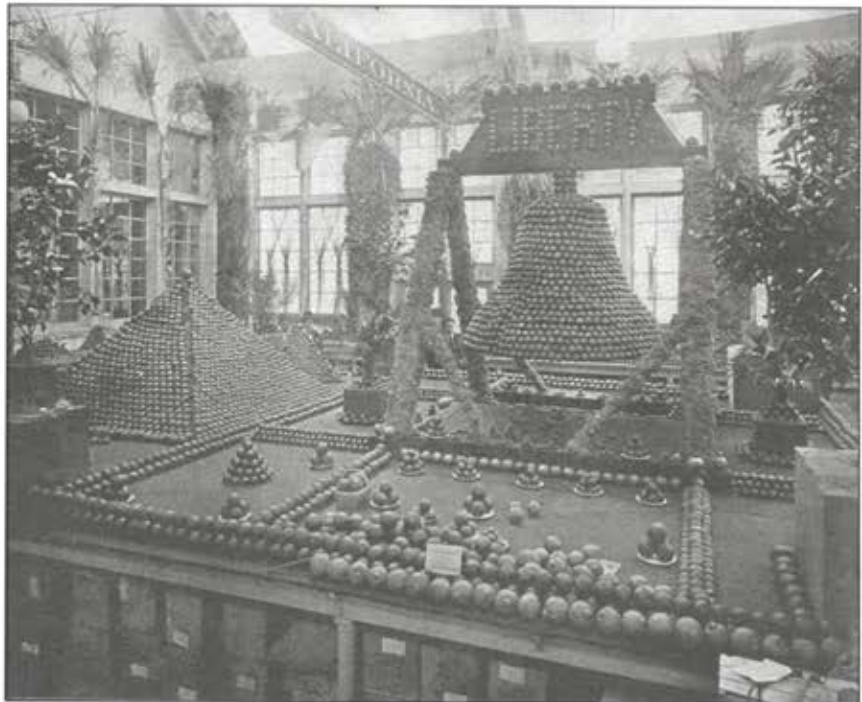
quickly glossed over. Presumably, deserts always flowered abundantly; the implication to the trusting *naïf* was that oranges simply fell into the palm or mouth, the sun doing all the work while mankind loafed and whistled. By July of that momentous year, Theodore Payne was following the Coves to what was about to become the world's largest man-made oasis, Los Angeles.

Though befriended by a generous Scot, James H. Denham, who had a seed business on Main Street south of Second Street, Payne was unable to find a position in the Los Angeles nursery trade.* However, Denham talked Payne, a New World greenhorn, into trying the job of gardener on the Modjeska Ranch, saying these customers of his were 'fine folks.'

So this thoroughly trained 'nurseryman,' a term Wilfrid E. Cheal, in

his privately printed history of the family business, insists was a matter of the greatest pride at the beginning of the century, reluctantly became the 'English gardener' on the elegant ranch of another expatriate, the accomplished Polish actress Helena Modjeska (1840-1909). Madame Modjeska had captivated American hearts and was famous for the strength-suffused-with-suffering roles in her repertory. The now neglected, once irresistible *Adrienne Lecouvreur*, *Maria Stuart*, Camille, Ibsen's *Nora*...Madame Modjeska played them all. After one of her world tours she would spend two or three months from June through September recuperating on the remote Orange County ranch which she had bought from J.E. Pleasants, rebuilt, and renamed Forest of Arden.

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This was only one of several citrus displays created for the 1893 Chicago Exposition. (The Dream City, A Portfolio of Photographic Views of the World's Columbian Exposition [1893].)

Theodore Payne (continued)

The Modjeska Ranch was high along a canyon in the Santa Ana Mountains far away from the closest towns of Anaheim (which never dreamed it would one day welcome the gaping hordes at Disneyland), Orange, and Santa Ana. Its slightly more than 400,000 acres, Payne tells us in *Life on the Modjeska Ranch*, were largely concerned with cattle raising, and the growing of a little grain, olives, oranges and grapes. There was also an apiary with over a hundred beehives. The estate lies in part of the Cleveland National Forest; the lower reaches of the ranch have now been developed with houses on quarter-acre to four-acre plots, but the upper reaches still hold vestiges of what Payne knew. When Payne last saw the remaining 10 to 15 acres of the Modjeska

Ranch, in the 1960s, he found it padlocked and overgrown. The lawn he had struggled to keep in fine fettle was no more, and there were far fewer flowers to be admired. But the actress's low rambling bungalow, designed by Stanford White, is now being restored as an Historic House Site, to be opened in 1993.

Life on the Modjeska Ranch in the Gay Nineties (the full title of Payne's 1962 memoir) must have come as something of an eye-opener to the Quaker, Cheals'-trained nurseryman who stepped out of the Santa Fe train at El Toro station on 18 July 1893 and was met by 'Johnnie Hare,' a Polish boy, with 'a buckboard and team of horses' to drive the ten miles 'through rolling land, foothills and mountains' to the multi-national and

-lingual ranch.

Madame Modjeska's 'democratic' fervour impressed Payne, especially on the occasion when, learning that he and the young Pole she had rechristened Johnnie Hare were sharing a birthday, she had a steer killed and threw a grand barbecue with 'plenty of tortillas and frijoles and wine and beer.' She invited what seemed to Payne the whole world, 'ranchers, beekeepers,

laborers, Americans, Mexicans, Indians.' At this celebration he watched the actress considered by many 'second only to Bernhardt,' who for three evenings before the party, with the assistance of Miss Maud Durbin (the future Mrs. Otis Skinner), had painstakingly taught him and Johnnie to dance, step out with José Serrano, a sombreroed Mexican. Payne wrote in his memoir that he thought this kind of thing could happen nowhere else. He believed he had found a 'wonderful country,' devoid of all 'social lines,' a place where no barriers existed and 'everyone was happy and contented.'

Here, for two and a half years, Theodore Payne became '*El Jardinero*,' responsible for looking after Madame Modjeska's landscaped grounds, the same grounds that the young Florence Yoch found awe-inspiring. These included lawns in front of the long white ranch house, two fountains, a rose and shrub garden and, further up the canyon, a vegetable patch. Payne tells us that roses were Madame Modjeska's greatest love. They 'predominated,' filling a very large area. Ornamental shrubs came next in her affections, pink nerium oleanders, exotic strelitzias, Abyssinian bananas and the hummingbird's favorite Turk's cap (*Malvaviscus mollis*, now *M. arboreus*). California fan palms (*Washingtonia filifera*) were grown, but a jacaranda tree that, like the bananas, was 'frozen back each winter,' reminds us that Orange County isn't always a haven of sunny warmth. Payne was particularly intrigued to find a Japanese wineberry growing luxuriantly, and whose unusual fruit he found delicious. There was a long border 'devoted' to cannas,



Madam Modjeska at the Fountain, at her Home near Santa Ana. (Postcard view, c. 1902, M. Graham.)

Theodore Payne (continued)

one to *Gazania splendens* (*G. rigens*) and another to silvery-soft *Stachys lanatum* (*S. byzantina*). A wooden fence was clothed by an *Ipomoea leari* (*I. indica*), the perennial blue dawnflower, which made a 'glorious sight all summer.' Canary Island date palms stood on either side of the driveway. While caring for Madame Modjeska's retreat Payne was expected to dress *à la mode*, in a simple shirt and pair of blue overalls. Only a visit to the city required the wearing of 'cloth clothes.' How extraordinary this must have seemed after the very proper Victorian formalities of Crawley.

It was in this canyon that Payne experienced his great Californian epiphany. On his very first exhilarating day the wilderness filled him with 'joy and enthusiasm.' He tells us he had never before experienced anything like 'the natural beauty of the scene.' As days passed he listened carefully to native Americans and Mexicans, often the only ones familiar with the local flora. He was delighted to find godetia (now *clarkia*) growing wild, and maidenhair fern that came up above his knees. Yellow bush penstemon, blue larkspur, violet beard-tongue (*Penstemon heterophyllus australis*, today minus the *australis*), and a lilac Mariposa lily replaced the wild flowers of Church Brampton as his familiars. He found shady spots where meadow rue grew over six feet high. Soon he was enthusiastically studying the habits and soil requirements of this remarkable flora. Long walks 'enchanted with the beauty of the scene' and – after he bought his first horse – rides in the nearby hills, were the start of a growing desire to introduce his own version of

Robinsonian principles to this water-shy climate. Payne began a herbarium and taught himself to grow new material from seed. Now, as he pondered the untapped possibilities of the local flora, he also started to question the monotony of endlessly remaking East Coast American and European gardens in a brave new land.

Payne was never afraid of long hours or hard work, but his dream of carving a life for himself as a nurseryman and landscape gardener went beyond bailing out Madame's wells with oaken buckets and pruning her thirty acres of olive trees, a task that took more than two lonely weeks, or dead-heading her 'La France' and 'Général Jacqueminot' roses, and reseeding lawns that virtually dislimned in the dry weather.

Having struggled manfully (brawn over brain, in his estimation) to maintain an elaborate private garden in a drought year with, he gauged, less than six inches of rain, Payne knew the sheer physical cost and inanity of planting a European-inspired dream garden in a rain-short climate. Daily he battled with fast-drying wells on that stylish ranch, shifting water like a demented Gunga Din from troubled shrubs to expiring 'Papa Gontier' and flagging 'Maman Cochet' rose bushes. Humping buckets through hundred-degree days at the Modjeska Ranch was a madness, Payne thought, considering the exquisite drought-tolerant flora the canyon held out to any sensible gardener with an eye to beauty and a willingness to accept the rhythm of California's own seductive seasons. Finally he left the ranch, and wangled a job in Los Angeles.

On 16 April 1896 he joined Germain's Fruit and Seed Company, established in 1871, as 'flower seedsman.' Here he remained for seven years, taking charge of Germain's flower, tree and palm seed department. By the time he became overall manager, Payne was familiar with leading nurseries and seedsmen in America, Europe and beyond. Ten years after his arrival in California, having worked empirically as seed-collector and propagator, he believed he knew as much about the California flora as anyone. (The professional taxonomists we associate with the subject – Leroy Abrams, Willis Linn Jepson, Philip Alexander Munz, and Alice Eastwood – had yet to publish their major studies.) It was time to strike out on his own. On 3 November 1903 Payne established himself in the seed business at 440 South Broadway, where he had a seed store and nursery yard. Later he 'moved to 345 South Main Street with a nursery at 33rd and Hoover streets.'

As Los Angeles continued to expand, makeshift housing, crudely aggressive agriculture and a growing film industry transformed the once-empty hillsides and arroyos, the canyons, coast, deserts and chaparral. To give some idea of the scale of this transformation, the population of Los Angeles in 1850 was a mere 1610; by 1900, when Payne was settling in the seed business, it had risen to 102,479. By the time he issued his 53rd Anniversary Catalogue in 1956, there were over 2 million Los Angelenos enjoying this flamboyant oasis. As numbers swelled, Payne watched glowing fields of native flowers, 'purple owl's clover, yellow tidy tips, golden poppies'

(Continued on page 8.)

Theodore Payne (continued)

(orthocarpus, layia and eschscholzia), sacrificed to the needs of a growing population and, sadly, the blind ignorance of 'realty speculators' wielding their indiscriminate weapon of mass destruction, the bulldozer. As early as 1916 he was warning prophetically that if people did not begin to preserve California wild flowers, 'the time will soon be here when they will become extinct or live only in history.' Entire canyons were going under wood-frame and concrete. Whole species were at risk.

But as my mother's snippets were forever reminding me, Theodore Payne refused to let such desecrations pass unquestioned. It was not long before he was lecturing every bit as passionately as Lady Martineau on his theme, 'Preserving the Wild Flowers and Native Landscapes of California.' Payne's mission was to awaken his listeners to the arrant profligacy occurring all about them as treasure after treasure became callously erased from the landscape. In his crusading zeal he pleaded with fellow Californians who loved their landscape to band together and preserve and promote the study and cultivation of what was left of their inherited bounty.

When today we visit the visually breathtaking sixty-five acres of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden in Mission Canyon in the foothills of the Santa Ynez mountains, we should think of Theodore Payne. Originally known as the Blaksley Botanic Garden, it was created in 1926 near Mission Dam as a direct consequence of a conscience-pricking Payne lecture to the socially prestigious Montecito Garden Club. Santa Barbara was then considered the Nice of the

"When today we visit the visually breathtaking sixty-five acres of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden in Mission Canyon in the foothills of the Santa Ynez mountains, we should think of Theodore Payne."

West Coast. Mrs. Blaksley Bliss, moved by the picture Payne painted of coming disaster, instantly decided to join his crusade and act in California's future interests by founding a much-needed botanic garden in memory of her father, Henry J. Blaksley.

Though Dr. Elmer J. Bissell is rightly given credit for supervising the laying-out of the terrain, the initial idea was Payne's, and the plants and seed used for the original plantings were largely gathered and supplied by the man who had first made a Los Angeles Native Plant Garden. Santa Barbara's original fifteen-acre planting is now subsumed within part of the 'typical riparian woodland' of Mission Canyon and the thrilling spring and autumn color of the Meadow Section.

When, the following year and in true West Coast 'Mapp and Lucia'-style competition with Mrs. Blaksley Bliss, Susanna Bixby Bryant commissioned a Native Botanic Garden in memory of her father, 'John W. Bixby, Pioneer,' Payne was not only responsible for the selection of the original 1927 site for the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in the Santa Ana River Canyon in Orange County, an area well known to him from his days on the Modjeska Ranch, but also acted as consultant, and propagated many of its astonishing

plants. These included *Antirrhinum speciosum*, the Santa Rosa Island and Santa Catalina Island shrub, a broad, evergreen bush snapdragon now renamed *Galvezia speciosa*, with its 'long, slender blooms of pure sealing-wax red,' which so enthused the intrepid Marion Cran on her exuberant visit in 1931. Fortunately Payne lived to advise on and settle-in the garden's replanting when it was moved in 1952 to its present site, 1500 North College Avenue in Claremont.

In the northernmost forty acres of Santa Ana, native California plants are grouped 'according to the natural plant communities in which they are found throughout the state.' Thus we can see how a fan palm community differs from a redwood; a sand dune community of dwarf juniper from the chaparral. In spring, from mid-March to June, the colour and range of plants is spectacular. It is far more thrilling to place one's footprints along the Santa Ana's many paths than to tread in the digit and shoe prints of Hollywood Stars stretching out from Graumann's (now Mann's) Chinese Theatre.

Payne hoped these richly patriarchal 'memorial gardens would marshal an informed public prepared to lobby and act for the preservation of narrow endemics and their remaining habitats. Though much changed from

Theodore Payne (continued)

Theodore Payne's day, the Santa Barbara and the Rancho Santa Ana gardens should be firmly pencilled into any itinerary of a visit to Los Angeles.

But for all the undoubted brilliance of these botanic gardens, what of Payne's crusade to protect native habitats and stay the hand of thoughtless land speculation? What chance did a mere golden-poppied or blue-lupin-filled hillside have against the juggernaut of 'progress'? On the commercial side, few people today could afford to purchase a ten-acre site on Los Angeles' Los Feliz Boulevard, where in 1922, Payne moved his growing grounds and where he remained until his retirement in his 89th year. It was on this now traffic-thronged thoroughfare bordered with the eclectic dwellings of everyday film-making folk that such favourites as the charming and once prolific fringed gilia or ground pink, *Linanthus*

dianthifolius was nursed, and where Payne grew selections of its best-loved colour forms. Indeed, where today would any would-be grower find a seed catalogue or list of California ground pinks of any hue? Described by Payne in his 1956 catalogue as an 'exquisite little plant with minute leaves and phlox-like flowers,' it lives only in memory. The roll-call of plants lost to cultivation but once grown commercially by Payne on Los Feliz Boulevard makes incredibly grim reading.

In the Los Angeles area, where no habitat is safe, there is certainly no room for complacency; but, mercifully, the picture is not altogether bleak. Though shockingly under-appreciated and under-funded, what I like to remember as Payne's Rescue-Horticultural Work goes on apace in many guises in late twentieth-century, increasingly environmentally-conscious California.

* J.H. Denham had been a manager at Germain's from 1888-1892, when he started his own firm in partnership as MacLeod & Denham, seedsmen, at 245 South Main Street, Los Angeles. A year later, the partnership had dissolved and Denham alone was operating the seedhouse at the same address. The panic of 1893 had an adverse effect on business in general, and he likely could not afford to take on any extra staff; thus the recommendation to Payne of Mme. Modjeska as an employer.

The Modjeska Historic House and Gardens, located at 29042 Modjeska Canyon Road, is under the management of the Orange County Parks Department and has been listed as a National Historic Landmark. Modjeska and her husband Count Bozenta lived at Arden between 1888-1906. The property was privately owned by the Walker family of Long Beach for a little over 60 years, until the county acquired the fourteen acre parcel in 1986. Some plantings from the Modjeska era remained, including the palms, English yews, white lilac and Crown of Thorns (*Euphorbia milii*). Park ranger Diane Wollenberg spent several years working to re-establish Madame's rose garden based on documentation found in Payne's writings. However, last year's wildland fires came within sixty feet of structures on the estate, and since the park is not enclosed, the resulting devastation to Modjeska Canyon led to an influx of deer looking for a safe haven. The roses have suffered accordingly. Since the ranch now sits in the middle of a residential neighborhood, visits are by appointment only. To make reservations, call 949.923.2230 or email ardenmodjeska@ocparks.com.

The Theodore Payne Foundation was established in 1961 to preserve native vegetation through propagation and to teach the public about its value. In addition to the nursery and mail-order seed business, the foundation has classes, field trips, a library, horticultural consultants, and the Wildflower Hotline, 818.768.3533. Their 21-acre site includes a five-acre wildflower hill, trails, and picnic facilities at 10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley. Website: www.theodorepayne.org/.

Recommended reading:

Theodore Payne In His Own Words: A Voice for California Native Plants, edited and published by Elizabeth Pomeroy, (Pasadena: Many Moons Press, 2004).



Payne's first shop at 440 South Broadway, Los Angeles. (Courtesy of the Theodore Payne Foundation website.)

Japanese Plants Come to California

Thomas A. Brown

(This article continues the story begun with "Plants of Japan" in *Eden*, Vol. 10, No. 3 [Fall 2007].)

Relatively few plant species were introduced into California before 1853. The contributions of the Spanish from 1769 to 1810 were probably no more than 240 species, including fruit trees, vegetables, cereal grains, forage plants, a few flowers, and some stowaway weeds. The Spanish policy of discouraging all traffic with California except Spanish ships precluded introductions by others. Nevertheless, La Pérouse mentioned giving the padres at Monterey potatoes on his visit in 1786, though he said nothing of the prodigious variety of seeds and seedlings taken aboard back in France and at the Island of Santa Caterina off the east coast of Argentina. It is doubtful that the padres knew what potatoes were nor how to grow, harvest or use them. From 1811 to 1846, when Mexico was more or less in charge of California, perhaps 30 species were introduced from Peru and Chile as well as Mexico, the majority of which would have been Old World species. There may have been some useful species native to these areas of New Spain that were sent to this state. It is also likely that some of the plants brought to California were hybrids that had occurred among various Old World importations during their 200-year sojourn in the New World.

The Napoleonic wars severely disrupted the balance of power throughout Europe. Spain ceased to be a major power, and Argentina and Mexico took advantage of her weakness to gain their independence. Europe and especially Britain profited from increased trade following the wars, and the

surgeon-botanists of her ships were busily tramping over the hinterlands of the ports they visited to discover, draw, describe and when possible, obtain living samples of plants new to science. Wealthy individuals might underwrite the expenses of sending a trained young botanist on some long voyage lasting several years. They were to explore, find new plants, study them, perhaps dig out seedling plants for shipment home, and possibly revisit the parent plant several months later to collect seeds. Among these was a young Scot, Robert Fortune, trained at Edinburgh University's Botanic Garden and underwritten none too generously by the Horticultural Society of London. The 1842 Treaty of Nanking settled the Opium War, imposing several concessions upon China, including access to several of her ports and the cession of Hong Kong. Fortune was duly engaged and arrived in Hong Kong in 1843. For three years he sent back Wardian Cases full of young plants and seeds before returning himself. While based in nearby Canton he was able to buy plants directly from local nurseries. Among other plants he sent back in 1845 were *Rosa* 'Fortune's Double Yellow', *Lonicera fragrantissima*, *Cyrtomium fortunei* (Japanese Hollyfern), *Euonymus fortunei*, and *Anemone hupehensis* var. *japonica* (now *A. x hybrida*).

The year 1853 was a date of importance to our story for two reasons. Firstly, this was the year Commodore Matthew Perry's squadron of American black warships dropped anchor in Tokyo Bay to inform the Japanese that the

years of their self-imposed isolation were over; the outside world was demanding entry. Secondly, it was the year Colonel James Lloyd Lafayette Warren arrived by ship in San Francisco with half the contents of his Nonantum Vale Nursery (located near Boston) in barrels and crates in the ship's hold. He proceeded to Sacramento and established a nursery. Overnight he had at least tripled the plant introductions into the state. We know what he brought because he had a printed catalogue back in Boston of what he planned to offer in California; there are three surviving copies. But this catalogue proves to be not a wholly reliable guide, for that winter his new nursery was flooded out; Warren sold the surviving stock to A.P. Smith in 1884 and removed to San Francisco. We don't know for certain of



206. *Anemone japonica*.

Japanese Plants Come to California (continued)

what that stock consisted, although we can make inferences based on the contents of Smith's first catalogue, issued in 1856.

From 1850 to 1900, under American occupation, over seven thousand species of fruit and ornamental plants were introduced into the state by nurserymen. During the first decade and a half of this period, the trees and shrubs were mostly those of temperate climates of North American and Europe. As the climate of California became better known, nurserymen began experimenting with other types of plants. Broadleaf evergreen species from Mediterranean climates became popular. Species from European colonial possessions in India, Africa, Brazil, Chile and Mexico continued to be introduced into Europe, and many species were thus brought into contact with similar species that might never have met in the wild. Cross fertilization took place, either by chance or human design, resulting in a flood of new hybrids and varieties. One such was *Magnolia x soulangiana*, resulting from a chance cross between *Magnolia heptapeta* and *M. quinquepeta* in the Acclimatization Garden of Solange Boudin at Fromont, France around 1825. These, too, were brought to California, but still missing were Japanese plants.

The phrase Japanese plants is misleading; just because it bears the species epithet *japonica* or *sinensis* does not guarantee its nationality, but only that the first describer of the plant encountered it in Japan or China. Plants are apolitical; they inhabit regions, not political jurisdictions. Thus a plant that grows in northern Japan may

be at the southern edge of its range, which may include Korea, Manchuria, northern China and even Siberia. Both China and Japan extend for considerable distances from north to south, embracing both temperate and sub-tropical climates. This makes for large floras for both China and Japan, containing many of the same plants as well as plants that have sub-speciated over the centuries. Species were also spread between the two by the agency of birds and there were historical periods of considerable trade between China and Japan, including garden plants. The Chrysanthemum, domesticated and improved in China for 3,000 years, became the very symbol of the imperial house of Japan.

Fortune made three trips to China, including one in 1858-59 for the American government to bring back tea plants for the Southern states. His last trip in 1860-62 included considerable time in Japan, visiting Nagasaki, Yokohama and Yedo (now Tokyo). Yokohama's importance lay in the depth of its harbor, which could accommodate the deeper draft of western vessels as the waters off Tokyo, 20 miles further north along the west side of Tokyo Bay, could not. (It was off Yokohama, then an insignificant fishing village, that Perry's squadron dropped anchor and his emissaries met with Japanese government officials.) The use of Yokohama as a port served the Japanese policy of allowing as little contact as possible between the foreign devils and the general populace. Fortune was able to make purchases directly from Japanese nurseries; he sent back 120 species of plants for Western gardens, including *Rhododendron*



Robert Fortune (1813-1880)

fortunei, *Jasminum nudiflorum* and *Dicentra spectabilis*, several varieties of chrysanthemums and *Paeonia Moutan* (now *P. suffruticosa*, the Tree Peony), the Kumquat (*Fortunella*), *Daphne fortunei* (now *D. genkwa*), *Phalaenopsis amabilis*, and *Trachycarpus fortunei* (the Windmill Palm).

Ironically, the same ship that carried Fortune's last sendings also carried a homeward-bound cargo of Wardian Cases belonging to another young botanist, John Gould Veitch. Just 21 years of age, Veitch (1839-1870) was the third son of the famous London horticulturist and nurseryman James Veitch. He had been sent by his father to search for and send back new plants for the family nursery in Chelsea. On the outward journey Veitch's ship was wrecked and his equipment lost. He quickly obtained passage on another ship however, and arrived in Nagasaki in July. There he was able, with an interpreter's help, to instruct a Japanese carpenter to make him replacement Wardian Cases.

(Continued on page 12.)

Japanese Plants Come to California (continued)

In Nagasaki he also obtained *Gleichenia linearis*, *Aralia sieboldii* and several camellias. He proceeded to Yokohama where he was invited to be the botanist on the first ascent of Mount Fuji by a British party. He was not allowed to wander from the prescribed route, but was still able to collect seeds and cones from the resthouse and temple gardens that were their stopping places along the route. From this trip he was able to send back seeds of *Larix kaempferi*, *Picea bicolor* and *Picea polita*, Hinoki and Sarawak cypresses, four species of pines, *Thujopsis dolabrata*, *Cryptomeria japonica* var. *elegans*, *Tsuga sieboldii*, *Sciadopitys verticillata* and a few bulbs of *Lilium auratum*, which caused a sensation back in London when they bloomed in July 1862.

On a short trip to the large northern Japanese island of Hokkaido, Veitch was obliged by the British consul there to fill three cases for Kew Gardens and thus for his family nursery was able to obtain only seeds of *Picea jezoensis*. A week after his return to Yokohama he was invited to make a visit to Tokyo. The British consul there had instructions for him to fill another case for Kew and four cases for Queen Victoria's gardens at Osborne on the Isle of Wight. In Tokyo he visited several nurseries; among the plants he sent back from this visit were *Magnolia liliiflora* var. *nigra*, *Parthenocissus tricuspidata* (Boston Ivy) and *Corylopsis spicata*. John's father next sent him to the Philippines where he obtained a variety of orchids; several *Phalaenopsis* and *Aerides*, *Saccolabium violaceum*, *Vanda batemanii*, *Cypripedium philippinense*, and a collection of

unusual foliage plants. He returned to Nagasaki in July 1861, where he had the good fortune to meet with von Siebold, who had been allowed to return to Japan in 1859, this time as a diplomat. Veitch continued to Yokohama, made one more visit to Tokyo where he bought bulbs, bamboos and ferns which were safely sent to Chelsea, and as winter approached, was able to book his return passage for home.

Back in Europe these new plants were avidly propagated and they were source material for much experimentation in plant breeding. As supplies grew sufficiently large enough to be offered by nurseries in their catalogues, other nurseries obtained specimens and began their own propagation programs. The nurseries included several from the eastern United States. Among them those of William Prince and Samuel Parsons, Jr. in Flushing, Long Island, and especially the Mount Hope Nurseries of Ellwanger and Barry, and James Vick's Nurseries in Rochester, New York, were early importers of plants from Europe.

Rochester seems an unlikely location for a major nursery but it had several advantages. The Erie Canal gave the city its first boost as this connection with the Great Lakes put it in much closer touch with the vast grain-growing areas of the Midwest than did the old long route along the Ohio river to the Mississippi, down to New Orleans and thence by ocean-going ship to New York. By intercepting and milling this grain, Rochester won itself the name of "Flour City." It was also discovered that its proximity to Lake Ontario, which seldom freezes, ameliorated the worst of winter weather, but still



John Gould (1839-1870)

allowed a reliable chilling period for fruit trees. Bulk items could be sent fairly cheaply down to Albany and New York via the Hudson river. In the other direction, Rochester could service what was then called "The West" a week earlier than could nurseries from Long Island. In time the railroads took over shipping of grain, and Rochester concentrated on plant and seed nurseries, changing its name to "Flower City." By 1860 Ellwanger and Barry, both immigrants, had 650 acres in their nursery and employed 250 men. Ellwanger made several trips to Europe to order stock, and in 1874, Patrick Barry came to California on the Transcontinental Railroad to drum up business. San Francisco, Oakland and San José were then the major nursery centers, and we may assume Barry visited at least Bernard S. Fox and John Rock in San José, Miller and Sievers, Thomas Meherin and Frederick Lüdemann in San Francisco, and perhaps Charles Shinn across the Bay at Niles/Fremont. Catalogues of these nurseries dramatically increased their offerings after 1875

Japanese Plants Come to California (continued)

and the improved connection with East Coast nurseries was largely responsible.

California began to receive plants of Japan as early as 1853 from Col. Warren, who may have had dealings with Francis Parkman,* and also in 1858 and 1861 from William C. Walker's Golden Gate Nursery of San Francisco. A few representative importations at this time were:

Astilbe japonica (1873)
Aucuba japonica varieties (1853)
Buddleja japonica (1882)
Buxus microphylla var. *japonica* (1874)
Camellia japonica (1853)
Cryptomeria japonica (1858)
Daphne japonica (1882)
Eriobotrya japonica (1861)
Fatsia japonica (*Aralia sieboldii*, 1876)
Fortunella japonica (1877)
Kerria japonica (1856)
Lonicera japonica (1854)
Pieris japonica (1853)
Primula japonica (1874)
Pseudosasa japonica (1879)
Salix japonica (1882)
Skimmia japonica (1884)
Sophora japonica (1873)
Wisteria japonica var. *alba* (1877)

The next step would be direct importations from Japan to California. (To be continued.)

* Francis Parkman 1823-1893 is best remembered today for his writings on historical subjects; his book on *The Oregon Trail* (1847) remains a classic and is still in print. However, Parkman was also an avid plantsman and a life member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. His work *The Book of Roses* (1866) is the only such reference available to give the American garden historian insight into which roses were most popular during that particular period.

Charles Haight Farnham's *A Life of Francis Parkman* (1900) stated that "In 1860 or 1861, Mr. Francis L. Lee, of Chestnut Hill, when enlisting for the [Civil] war, turned over to Mr. Parkman, as the most competent person, a lot of plants he had received from Japan and partially brought to flowering—among them the *Lilium*

auratum" and what eventually became known as the 'Parkman Crabapple'. Albert Emerson Benson, (author of the *History of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society*, 1929) wrote that Ernest H. Wilson's account of the matter was reported in the Society's *Transactions* on 8 January 1916. It stated that Parkman received the lily and other plants from Dr. G.R. Hall, through the offices of Mr. Gordon Dexter. However it came about, "This stroke of fortune thus placed in his hands new and interesting materials, stimulated his ambition to further study, and laid a good part of the foundation for his fame as a horticulturist. In 1862 the possibilities of the case induced him to form a partnership with a horticulturist, with a view to purchasing more land and developing his gardening as a business venture. This scheme, however, was abandoned at the end of the year, though he thriftily turned his labors to some profit by selling plants...He gave up special efforts in horticulture about 1884, when his lameness increased, and thereafter simply maintained his garden for the pleasure of it." Parkman's garden was in what is now a part of Boston's Jamaica Park. A rather unattractive marble monument marks the spot today.

Recommended reading

The images of John Gould Veitch and the *Lilium auratum* were both taken from the book *Seeds of Fortune, A Gardening Dynasty* by Sue Shephard (2003), the history of the Veitch family nursery. It begins in 1868, when a Scotsman named John Veitch went to England to find his fortune and took an apprenticeship position with the firm of Lee and Kennedy, provider of roses to the Empress Josephine. It was John's youngest son, James who became a member of the Horticultural Society and capitalized on the growing mania for foreign plants. In turn, it was James' son, John Gould Veitch, who traveled to Japan in search of new plant introductions. Over the years, the firm hired several well-known plant collectors such as Thomas Lobb, Ernest H. "Chinese" Wilson, and William Purdom to bring home new exotic plants on a regular basis. Though the heyday of the Veitch empire had passed by 1914, Peter Veitch continued to operate their Exeter nursery until his death in 1929. His daughter, Mildred, took over from Peter and continued the business for another forty years until she sold it in 1969.



Lilium auratum, the Golden-rayed Lily, one of the plants of which the Veitch nursery was most proud. (Curtis's Botanical Magazine)



Preservation Issues

Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara is once again making newspaper headlines in several preservation areas.

The Botanic Garden

In the January 2008 issue of the Pearl Chase Society's newsletter, *The Capital*, Kellam de Forest described the Garden's "current campaign to convert what was originally conceived as an attractive, artistically landscaped and well maintained exhibition garden of California native plants for the enjoyment of the people of Santa Barbara into a horticultural research campus complete with the requisite laboratories, offices, and lecture halls. To support the campus, any additional space needs to be converted to moneymaking venues such as the proposed 'meadow terrace' for weddings and concerts."

On Tuesday evening, 19 February 2008, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors denied the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's appeal concerning their "Meadow Terrace Project," which had been determined was impermissible by the Santa Barbara County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission (HLAC). The exact wording of the rather lengthy motion will not be available until the minutes for this meeting are released (probably at the end of March).

The essence of the motion, which passed four to one, was that the supervisors were upholding the findings of the Santa Barbara County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission meeting of 10 September 2007, when HLAC

"voted to (1) find that the project may affect a historic resource, was not exempt from, and was subject to review and approval by HLAC, as provided for under the authority given to HLAC by the Landmark Resolution, and (2) find that the project substantially deviated from the historic landscape design concept and historic use of the Garden as set forth in the Landmark Resolution and was therefore impermissible."

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden is the only place in the United States where Beatrix Farrand and Lockwood de Forest collaborated. Both are featured in the book, *Pioneers of American Landscape Design* (Volume 1, 2000), and this is the historic core of the original design. (For more detail, see Diane Balmori, et al., *Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes* (1985):186-187, plate xv and footnote 73, or consult Kellam de Forest, son of Lockwood and Elizabeth de Forest.) Much has already been altered.

The above quote on HLAC's findings is from page two of the Board of Supervisors' Agenda Letter for Agenda of 23 October 2007, when the Botanic Garden first appealed the HLAC decision; they subsequently withdrew the appeal to work out a compromise with HLAC, failed to reach an acceptable compromise, then filed their second appeal, which was heard on 19 February 2008. The full text of this Agenda Letter is available online with more detail on the findings of HLAC, or you can find the minutes for the 10 September 2007 HLAC meeting online

with even more detail of their meeting and findings, including finding #4: "The proposed project would adversely affect a defining feature of the Garden and would not meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes;..."

This finding was based, in part, on a letter to HLAC from Charles A. Birnbaum, president of The Cultural Landscape Foundation and former head of the National Park Service's Historic Landscape Initiative. Birnbaum is the editor of *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*.

County Planning staff were also questioning whether the project violates the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). "The CEQA Guidelines provide that a project that demolishes or alters those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance (i.e., its character defining features) can be considered to materially impair the resource's significance."

The Garden was in the process of building a structure with retaining walls and paving, where a diseased, ancient oak tree was removed (due to liability issues) adjacent to the meadow toward the west. The Garden chose not to restore a tree to the space, thereby creating a huge hole in the frame of trees that encircled the meadow. They then inserted a structure that was linked with retaining walls to the meadow itself, and thus to the existing

Preservation Issues (continued)

Santa Barbara (continued)

special events area, which is sodded with non-native buffalo grass. This alteration also had an adverse impact on the kiosk designed by de Forest, the Blaksley boulder, and the area under the remaining oaks, which are potentially endangered by the new project because it extends well within their driplines.

The Garden applied for their building permit by calling the project an exhibit area and they were granted a substantial conformity determination in July 2007 because exhibits are allowed under the Landmark Resolution. The county issued a stop work order due to public controversy which arose when it appeared that the real reason for the new seating walls, lighting and paving was to create a special events area. People were upset about the negative impact on the historic design and all the new hardscape. (The Botanic Garden has already paved many of their trails, and their "Vital Mission Plan," which is currently undergoing Environmental Impact Review shows that virtually all the natural trails are to be paved. The new events area was not included in the EIR – yet another point of controversy.) A Botanic Garden trustee later testified at the HLAC hearing that the Meadow Terrace project would indeed function as a special events area for fundraising. Billy Goodnick, a landscape architect for the project, testified at the same meeting that when the oak tree was removed, there was an "opportunity" to install an events area.

In the March 2008 issue of *The Capital*, Kellam de Forest reported that "The fight is not over,

however. The Botanic Garden is threatening to sue the county. The garden has also rescinded its compromise offer to replace the oak tree and remove the concrete pavers that circle the meadow. It is regrettable that the current garden management is so against the preservation of its design legacy that it is spending tens of thousands of dollars in legal and public relation fees. Such moneys could be better spent in restoring the landmarked portion of the garden to the vision of its designers and original benefactors. The money also could be used to build fire safe buildings to house the library and the herbarium."

This issue has come down to a level of choosing sides as to which is more important – the historic resource or the goals of the current administration and board of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. While CGLHS favors preservation of the historic landscape, this defeat for the Garden is costly and we cannot view that as a good thing. We do not demand that the entire botanic garden be "frozen in time" forever, but neither should the most historic aspects of its original design intent be mindlessly bulldozed to create a convenient new event space. The Garden's claim that only a "small vocal minority" group of neighbors were against their plan was not supported by the evidence. Members of The Pearl Chase Society and the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation attended many hearings on this subject in order to make their concerns known. Former Santa Barbara mayor Sheila Lodge, a 12-year Garden docent, resigned that position in protest over this project. Surely

there is some compromise that would answer all community concerns. It is regrettable that the Garden seems unwilling to seek such a compromise.

The Mission Huerta Project

In *Eden* Vol. 8, No. 4 (Winter 2005), Susan Chamberlin informed CGLHS members of "Mission Santa Barbara's New Huerta." The *huerta* was the typical mission garden, a utilitarian one for vegetables, fruits, herbs and altar flowers, not an ornamental *jardin*, or pleasure garden. "Mission museum director Kristina Foss and Jerry Sortomme (Professor Emeritus of the Environmental Horticulture Department at Santa Barbara City College) were given permission to create a living museum to hold plants from all of Alta California's mission period. They dubbed it 'The Old Mission Huerta Project.' It is both a museum and a mother bed capable of supplying other historic places that wish to capture the feeling of the Spanish-era cultural landscape by using authentic plant varieties."

The Huerta Project was located on a portion of the former site of the Chumash "Indian Village" because the original huerta location was unavailable. The village fell into ruin and was later covered over by rubble from Santa Barbara's 1925 earthquake.

Late in January 2008, an old garden shed was removed from the huerta. This provided an excellent window of opportunity to conduct an archaeological dig on a relatively undisturbed portion of the village adjacent to the mission. (See the map on page 16.) The dig was conducted under the supervision of

(Continued on page 16.)

Preservation Issues (continued)

Santa Barbara (continued)

Dr. Robert Hoover, a specialist in Mission period archaeology. Also on hand was Cynthia Varela, a Chumash tribe monitor.

The site is at the northeastern edge of what was once a large Indian pueblo that extended from the mission to the area now bordered by Pueblo, Garden and Los Olivos streets. The houses were built from the late 1790s – about a decade after the mission’s founding – into the 1820s and typically measured 12x15 feet. Much of the village remains were razed in the 1950s and ‘60s – before anyone had concerns about historical preservation. Thus the relatively undisturbed garden site presented a unique opportunity to archaeologists.

The dig unearthed the stone foundation of a house that was once part of this Chumash village. “For years, we’ve been trying to document the Native American village here,” Ms. Foss said. “...we finally found a place that had been undisturbed.” In all there were once 251 houses in the pueblo, many with tiled roofs and some with floors made of fired clay tiles or *ladrillo*. This village was approximately three times the size of most of those attached to a mission, probably an indicator of the Indian’s agricultural success here. Excess produce could be sold in the town and to trading ships in the harbor as at Mission San Buenaventura.

For the time being, the site has again been covered with a soil and will be topped by a new garden shed to protect the find. Jerry Sortomme remarked that they had actually envisioned building an adobe *casita* as a part of the

garden re-creation, and now they have the actual outline for one on the site.

The archaeological dig is financed largely by private donations. If you would like to contribute, send a check to the Santa Barbara Mission Museum, 2201 Laguna Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93105. Indicate on the check that the money is to be used for archaeology.

[Excerpts and map reprinted from the Santa Barbara News-Press, 9 February 2008.]

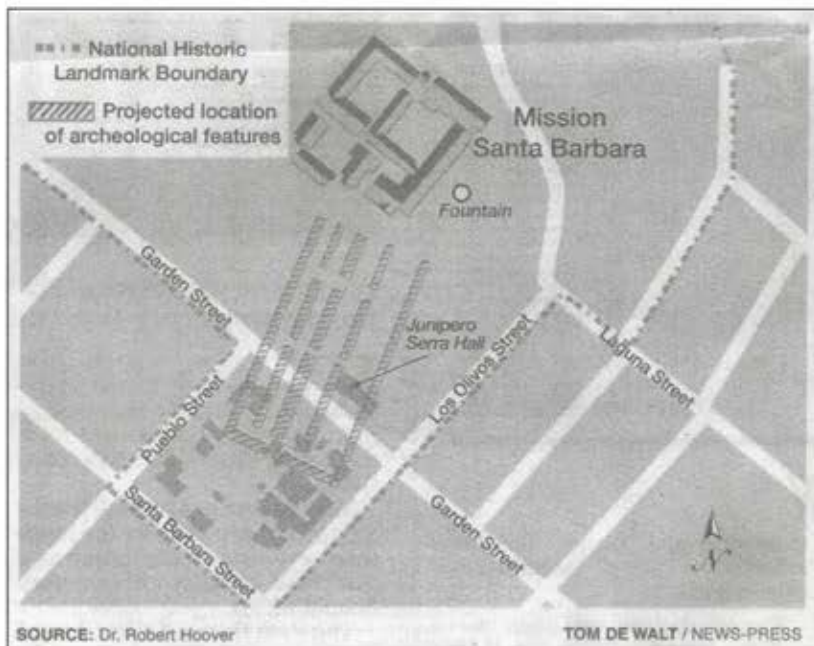
Val Verde

Gail Jansen, Executive Director of the the Austin Val Verde Foundation (AVVF), has recently sent out letters asking for donations to support the continuing preservation of the Val Verde estate in Montecito. This suggests that the First Annual Santa Barbara Million Dollar Giveaway discussed in our last issue may have been less than a resounding success.

The letter explains that AVVF “is in a unique position for a non-profit,

private foundation. Traditional fund raising avenues involving property access for the public has been denied...an additional county ordinance aimed at vintners resulted in AVVF being prohibited from raising funds to support itself on the grounds. Therefore, AVVF has remained a private non-profit supporting other charitable organizations by giving them free access to use the grounds to raise money for their own organizations. AVVF has also made the grounds available to private guests whenever possible.”

If you’d like to support Val Verde, they are a 501(c)(3) non-profit and your gift is 100% tax deductible. Send checks to AVVF, PO Box 5519, Santa Barbara, CA 93150-5519.





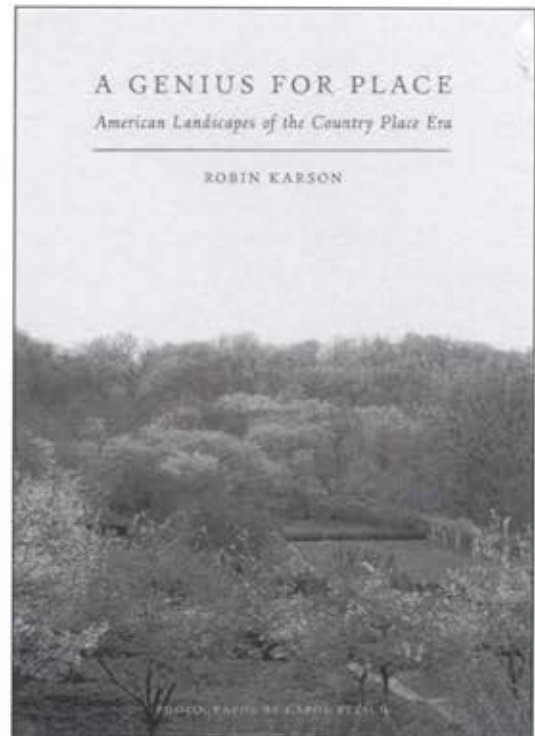
Book Reviews & News

A Genius for Place: American Landscapes of the Country Place Era, by Robin Karson, photographs by Carol Betsch (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press and the Library of American Landscape History, 2007). Cloth cover, 456 pages, 483 duotone illustrations \$65. To order directly, visit the website: www.umass.edu/umpress. Toll-free tel: 800.537.5487.

On a hot, muggy July afternoon in 1993 I was walking along a twinkling rill that led to the top of Naumkeag's famed blue steps. The town of Stockbridge, Massachusetts lay in the distance, smudged by humid summer air. It was quiet, with no breeze to ruffle the birches on either side of the staircase. I was on tour collecting garden images. Four years earlier I had seen similar photos as a landscape architecture student at the University of Washington. I spent many a Wednesday evening listening to Professor David Streatfield's lectures on the history of landscape design. Slides of America's most important gardens would flash onto the screen accompanied by concise commentary on the landscape's defining characteristics and contributions to the profession. Naumkeag would be the first of seven gardens I visited that summer, followed by Dumbarton Oaks, Winterthur, Biltmore, Vizcaya, Lotusland, and Val Verde. Each garden visit slowly added to my understanding of the design aesthetic of the early 20th century.

Within the last ten years a number of books have been published about Country Place Era estates and designers. The Era starts with the waning of the Frederick Law Olmsted American Picturesque movement around 1910 and ends as the Modernist movement of the late 1930s takes hold. Olmsted's repeated use of nature as a design cue to create a sense of place was being replaced by the European design movements of Beaux-Arts and, to a lesser extent, English Arts and Crafts. Landscape architects such as Ferruccio Vitale (Longwood at Kennett Square, PA) and Diego Suarez (Vizcaya near Miami, FL) translated the Italianate formality of architecture into the large landscaped estates while remaining true to the region's *genius loci*.

The newest addition to the *oeuvre* is Robin Karson's *A Genius for Place: American Landscapes of the Country Place Era* (published by the University of Massachusetts in association with the Library of American Landscape History). The book expands on Karson's 2006 insightful exhibit of the same name at the Smith College Museum of Art, and draws upon her two earlier books: the award-winning *Fletcher Steele, Landscape Architect: An Account of the Gardener's Life, 1881-1971* (1993, revised ed. 2003) and *The Muses of Gwinn: Art and*



Nature in a Garden Designed by Warren H. Manning, Charles A. Platt and Ellen Shipman (1995).

As the grand tour of Europe became *de rigeur* for both owners and designers, the estate gardens, in turn, became grand representations of the owners' personal experiences and social aspirations. Landscape architects such as Beatrix Farrand, Paul Thiene and Fletcher Steele created new country estates ranging in size from a few acres to several hundred. While there are many notable designers who practiced between 1900 and 1940, *A Genius for Place* combines images and research on seven fairly intact gardens and the landscape architects who became synonymous with them:

(Continued on page 18.)

Book Reviews & News (continued)

- Warren Manning, Charles Platt, and Ellen Shipman – *Gwinn* (1907-1957) and *Stan Hywett Hall* (1910-1955)
- Beatrix Farrand and *Dumbarton Oaks* (1921-1947)
- Marion Coffin and *Winterthur* (1927-1955)
- Jens Jensen and *The Ford Garden at Grosse Pointe* (1926-1934)
- Lockwood de Forest Jr. and *Val Verde* (1925-1946)
- Fletcher Steele and *Naumkeag* (1926-1955)

Each of these gardens was developed over extended periods with constant involvement of the landscape architects. I believe that this consistent re-visiting of the design, coupled with changing client tastes, is what made these unique gardens landscape landmarks. Karson devotes chapters to the work and careers of the landscape architects. Each is thoroughly detailed, starting from birth, through the formative years, then examining the breadth of each career. She then follows up with chapters that focus on each specific garden. Here Karson does something unique. The garden chapters begin with in depth client biographies that set the social and economic parameters leading to the hiring of their landscape architect. These portions of the book are the most interesting as they involve the rich and famous: the Firestones, the Fords, and the duPonts, to name a few. Because each family maintained personal archives, Karson draws upon a wealth of information that creates a sense of time and place that is particularly elegant. Her access to the client-landscape architect correspondence also allows us to view the design process in greater detail.

Of special interest to CGLHS members would be the chapters featuring Lockwood de Forest and Val Verde. Published research on de Forest is scant and what exists is due mainly to David Streatfield's continued efforts to bring this unique designer to light. David has been researching de Forest's life and work for a future book. In developing my California Landscape Architect bibliography database, I've come across more than 40 articles that give me a better sense of who de Forest was as both a person and a designer.

Karson's chapter on de Forest is a particularly valuable contribution to Southern California landscape history. Her examination of the SoCal region, de Forest's parents, his upbringing and education create a story arc that would make a wonderful 1930s Hollywood film. It becomes readily apparent that Lockwood was an original free spirit who, above all, felt a deep connection to the native horticulture of Santa Barbara. The book is worth the price for this chapter alone. It should be a must read for anyone planning on visiting Val Verde.

A Genius for Place: American Landscapes of the Country Place Era is geared to the armchair researcher who has visited these gardens and desires more information than a simple tour pamphlet can offer. One minor criticism: the photographs, both historic and contemporary, are black and white. Carol Betsch's photographs have a beautiful composition, but some color is warranted, particularly in the chapters on Farrand, Steele and

de Forest. Each designer used color to a great extent throughout their careers. De Forest lectured extensively on the use of color in talks to clubs and societies. Plus, a graphic plan showing photo locations would have helped the reader to better orient themselves to the spatial layout of the gardens and to compare historic images to the contemporary ones.

—Duane Dietz

Robin Karson is the Executive Director of the Library of American Landscape History. Karson was also co-editor of *Pioneers of American Landscape Design* (Volume I: 2000).

Professor David C. Streatfield, author of *California Gardens: Creating A New Eden*, wrote a brief biography of Lockwood de Forest Jr. for the first volume of *Pioneers of American Landscape Design* (2000). He is continuing research on the elusive de Forest in hopes of producing a more definitive work.

Duane Dietz is a licensed landscape architect living on Vashon Island, a boat ride away from Seattle. He is the Washington state liaison of the Historic American Landscape Survey and a founding member of CGLHS. His article on Disneyland's landscape architect Bill Evans appeared in the Fall 1996 issue of *Pacific Horticulture*. Duane is currently writing a book on the career of Bay Area landscape architect Butler Sturtevant. Any information on Sturtevant would be helpful...please contact Duane at ddietz@seanet.com.

Book Reviews & News *(continued)*

Austin Val Verde: Impressions of a Montecito Masterpiece, sepia photographs by Ann Mitchell, reflections by Gail Jansen (Santa Barbara: Val Verde Foundation, 2007). Hardcover, unpaginated, \$50.

Val Verde's website was still in the process of being updated as regards their new book, *Impressions of Val Verde*. They advised it is available locally from Tecolote Book Shop. (Tecolote will ship for \$10 extra plus sales tax.) Both this and the earlier *Austin Val Verde, A Montecito Masterpiece* (Santa Barbara: Austin Val Verde Foundation, 2005) are contemporary photographic essays, the latter consisting of color images by Berge Aran. The same *News-Press* notice that announced the availability of the new book also stated that a third book "further exploring the estate's history, gardens and architecture" is due out next year. Tecolote Book Shop, 1470 East Valley Road, Montecito 93108. Tel: 805.969.4977.

Historical Atlas of California, with Original Maps, by Derek Hayes (Berkeley: U.C. Press, 2007). Hardcover, 256 pages, color and b&w illustrations on every page, \$39.95.

Historical Atlas of California has nothing to do with landscape history, *per se*, but everything to do with understanding California history. Hayes has cleverly grouped maps by subject and chronological order. This enables the reader to comprehend the scope of events that shaped California's history: the Spanish colonization; the Gold Rush; the advent of the intercontinental railroad system; the influence of agriculture and our

statewide water systems; the effects of earthquakes, and more. The maps come from every important archive within the state, and some from without. Our only objection is that, even with the book's large format, many maps had to be reduced to the point where small details are scarcely legible, or only small portions of the whole could be included, but at least one may refer to the Catalog of Maps at the back of the book to find out the source of the original. There is also a bibliography and an index. *Historical Atlas of California* is recommended to all students of California history for both reading and reference.

A new picture book was briefly noted on our last visit to the California State Library at Sacramento. We didn't have time to peruse it carefully, but here is a brief rundown:

Story of Hollywood: An Illustrated History, by Gregory Paul Williams (Los Angeles: BL Press, LCC, 2006). Hardcover, 405 pages, 849 photographs, \$49.95.

This book's first three chapters deal with Hollywood before the film industry predominated and include some information on and images of the early landscape and the private estates built in the area. This book won the Silver Medal for Best Non-fiction in the Western Region category at the 2006 Independent Publisher's Book Awards.

Other Items of Interest

The Global Migrations of Ornamental Plants: How the World Got into Your Garden, by Judith M. Taylor, M.D., (St. Louis: Missouri Botanical Garden Press, 2008). To be published *sometime* in 2008. Hardbound with color plates, price to be announced. To place an order, call 1-877-271-1930 or email orders@mbgpress.org.

"Dr. Taylor has done an outstanding job in examining the natural roots of our gardens. After reading this richly researched tome, one should never again look at a garden plant, no matter how pedestrian, and not wonder who, when, and where." — *Daniel Hinkley*

Saving Places that Matter: A Citizen's Guide to the National Historic Preservation Act, by Dr. Thomas F. King, PhD, (Left Coast Press, 2007). To purchase the book, visit the website: www.lcoastpress.com/ or call 925.935.3380.

Tom King is an expert on cultural resource management. In this book he shows readers how to use Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act – the major U.S. law designed to protect historic places – to protect the special places in one's community. The author has spent years with the National Park Service and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. He was awarded his Ph.D. in anthropology by the University of California, Riverside, and is currently affiliated with SWCA Environmental Consultants.



Coming Events

1 April: Allyson Hayward, landscape historian and author of *Norah Lindsay: The Life and Art of a Garden Designer* will be one of this year's Royal Oak Foundation speakers. This event is being co-sponsored by Beverly Hills Women's Club and Friends of Robinson Gardens. Hayward's talk will be held at the Club's headquarters, 1700 Chevy Chase Drive, Beverly Hills at 10:30 A.M. Lecture and luncheon. Advance registration is required. Web: www.royal-oak.org. Toll-free Tel: 800.913.6565. From New York, call 212.480.2889 x 201.

3 April: The Royal Oak Foundation and Filoli will sponsor another talk by Hayward at Filoli, 86 Cañada Road, Woodside at 2:00 P.M. Lecture, reception, and book signing. See above entry for contact information.

3-4 April: The Garden Conservancy presents the 6th design seminar and study tour in their series: *Gardens To Match Your Architecture*, co-sponsored by *Pacific Horticulture* magazine. The theme is "Gardens that Remake Themselves: a discourse on regeneration, sustainability, and preservation." In the world of fashion, clarity of design and great fabric bring lasting style. Applying that same clarity to the process of garden design should also create a long-lived garden that subscribes to the principles of sustainable and ecologic design and is beautiful. Thursday seminar at the Golden Gate Club, The Presidio, San Francisco. Friday garden tours begin with the new "green" roof on the California Academy of Sciences. For full details or to register: Telephone 415.561.7895; fax 415.561.3999. Web: www.gardenconservancy.org. Email: weprog@gardenconservancy.org.

4-5 April: The Northern California chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (NCCSAH) is hosting a talk by Gamble House curator and Greene & Greene scholar Ted Bosley at 7:30 P.M., Swedenborgian Church, Washington & Lyon Streets, San Francisco. On the following day, Mr. Bosley will conduct a tour of the Woodside estate 'Green Gables' including the house and gardens. The tour is now full, but for future reference, preference is given to SAH members. Dues for the NorCal chapter are only \$20 per year, and well worth it for opportunities such as this. Make checks payable to NCCSAH and mail to Lissa McKee, Treasurer, 307 Sterling Road, Mill Valley, CA 94941. Members will receive a newsletter which is available in hardcopy or .pdf form via email. See notices on 7-10 May and 6-7 September in this issue for additional opportunities provided with membership in SAH. Though their emphasis is always first and foremost on architecture, they do not exclude interest in historic landscapes. Website: <http://nccsah.org>

8 April: "Ancient Gardens of India," a lecture with Nancy Goslee Power, 6:30 P.M. at The Barn Studio, 1660 Stanford Street, Santa Monica. For reservations, call: 310.264.0266. Fee: \$40.

17-18 April: Annual Conference of the Heritage Rose Foundation at Hearst Castle. Learn all about the restoration of the Hearst rose garden. Web: www.heritagerosefoundation.com.

19-28 April: "Explore the Spirit of Brazilian Landscapes in Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Brasilia," a ten-day tour led by landscape architect Patricia Akinaga. Land fee: \$3395. For full details, contact Helen Williams, UCLA Extension, 10995 Le Conte Avenue,

Los Angeles 90024. Tel 310.825.7729. Website: www.uclaextension.edu.

19 April - 27 July: The Garden Conservancy's Open Days in California begin on the San Francisco Peninsula 19 April. For full details, purchase a copy of the Open Days Directory, or check the garden section of local newspapers in these areas. To join the Conservancy, order your copy of the Directory or Open Day tickets, call 845.265.2029 or visit the website: www.gardenconservancy.org.

21 April: "The History of the Japanese Tea Garden," a garden tour and lecture by Erik S. Hagiwara-Nagata, the great grandson of garden creator Makoto Hagiwara. Hagiwara-Nagata is the proprietor of Garden Delights Nursery in Sonoma County, and has recently written an article on "Winter Delights in the Garden: Flowers" for *Pacific Horticulture*. 7 P.M. at the County Fair Building (Hall of Flowers), San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way, San Francisco. Admission \$5 to the general public; free to SFBGS and Cal Hort members. Contact 415.661.1316.

23-26 April: The 33rd Annual California Preservation Foundation Conference will be held at Napa. The theme is *Balance and Complexity: The Vineyard and Beyond*. Web: www.californiapreservation.org. Tel: 415.495.0349.

3 May: "Architecture Inside and Outside" is the theme of this day-long house and garden tour. The Southern California Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians tour will feature three Montecito gardens: Lotusland, Val Verde and Casa del Herrero. "One of the primary elements

Coming Events (continued)



of architectural design in Southern California is the ability to incorporate the exterior environment. Join SAH/SCC executive board member Dennis Whelan in a tour of three superb examples of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture and landscape. Coach transport and box lunch provided. Fee: Members \$139; non-members \$159. Space limited, advance registration required. Call 800.972.4772 or email sahscc-info@sahscc.org. For full details visit the website: www.sahscc.org.

7-10 May: The Vernacular Architecture Forum's annual conference will be held at Fresno. The theme is "In the Garden of the Sun: California's San Joaquin Valley." The Society of Architectural Historians is a co-sponsor of this event. Website: <http://vernaculararchitectureforum.org>.

13 May: *The Museum Sculpture Garden: Whose Idea Was That?* John Walsh, Director Emeritus of the J. Paul Getty Museum, addresses the post World War II explosion of sculpture gardens and parks. Barn Studio Lecture Series, 6:30 P.M., 1660 Stanford Street, Santa Monica. Refreshments

included. Fee: \$40 (\$25 for master gardeners; \$15 for full-time students). For reservations or information: Tel: 310.264.0266 x27. Email: carolyn@nancypower.com.

13 May: The next quarterly meeting of the Northern California chapter of the Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) will be held on 13 May at Tao House, the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in Danville at 4 P.M. If you would like to participate, contact Marlea at 925.335.9182 or maggie94553@earthlink.net.

20-22 May & Fall, 2008: "Designing the Parks: Part I-II," a conference co-sponsored by the University of Virginia, the National Parks Service, and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy. Part I will be held at Charlottesville, VA, Part 2 in San Francisco sometime in the fall. For details, contact Ethan Carr, ec2h@virginia.edu.

25 May - 5 June: CGLHS member Judith Tankard, author of *Gardens of the Arts and Crafts Movement* (2004) is leading a tour of private Arts and Crafts-style homes and gardens, some of which were quite influential on the Greene brothers. There are still some spaces available. For trip details, contact Jeff Sainsbury Tours, www.jeffsainsburytours.com/Arts+Crafts2008.html.

28-31 May: The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation, an interdisciplinary forum for exploring and exchanging ideas about historic landscapes and their stewardship, is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2008. The conference theme is *Competing Values? Balancing Heritage and Environment*, and will be held in Montreal, Quebec. It aims at reviewing the progress that has been made in understanding and managing cultural landscapes over these past three decades. "Most importantly, we will be

looking ahead at the ways and means by which to best balance and to integrate heritage conservation practices and historic preservation treatments with environmentally sustainable activities. Tours of prominent Montreal places such as Olmsted's Mount Royal Park (1876) will complement the paper sessions. For details and registration form, visit the website: www.ahlp.org.

30 May-1 June: *A Weekend in Santa Barbara* is a Pacific Horticulture Study Tour co-sponsored by the Western Horticultural Society. U.C. Berkeley Professor Chip Sullivan (author of *Garden & Climate*, 2002) and landscape architect Leslie Dean will be your guides. For detailed itinerary, contact Giselle's Travel, 800.782.5545.

15 June - 27 June: "Preserving Jefferson's Gardens and Landscapes." The Historic Landscape Institute at Monticello invites you to participate in a two-week introduction to the fields of landscape history, garden restoration and historical horticulture by using the landscapes designed by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello and the University of Virginia as case studies and outdoor classrooms. The program includes outdoor activities that may be strenuous in hot and humid weather. Tuition is \$800 for the two week period and includes some meals but not lodging. Student housing is available at \$30 per day. Restroom facilities are shared and air-conditioning is absent. Participation is limited. Applicants will be selected upon submission of a one-page resume and statement of interest in the program, and an application form accompanied by a non-returnable application fee of \$25 by 21 April 2008. To receive a copy of the form, call 434.984.9836 or email phatch@monticello.org.

(Continued on page 22.)

Coming Events (continued)

19 June and 8-9 July: The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation offers "The Section 106 Essentials," the advanced course at San Francisco in June and the beginner's version at San Diego in July. Contact Cindy Bienvenue. Tel: 202.606.8521. Website: www.achp.gov/106. See *Book Reviews* in this issue re Tom King's book on this subject (page 19).

6-7 September: The NCC/SAH is sponsoring a 'Modernist Santa Cruz Weekend.' Tours of Pasatiempo, the early Thomas Church/William Wurster development of the 1930s and the

landscape and buildings of the U.C. Santa Cruz campus (Thomas Church/John Carl Warnecke, 1962) will be featured. Professor Emeritus Virginia Jansen will be our guide. Attendance is limited and preference will be given to SAH members – see details on 4-5 April in this issue.

16-17 September: Cemetery Landscape Preservation Workshop at Natchitoches, LA. Fee: \$299 if registered before 1 May, \$399 thereafter. Contact Debbie Smith, Tel: 318.356.7666. Email: ncptt@nps.gov. Website: www.ncptt.nps.gov.

12 October: Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies, a one-day seminar co-sponsored by the Mediterranean Plant Society and *Pacific Horticulture* as a part of their annual conference in Monterey. It is open to the general public as well as members of MPS, and will feature lectures and garden tours. Details to follow in June.

18 October 2008 - 5 January 2009
"The Architecture & Decorative Arts of Charles and Henry Greene," at the Huntington. Website: www.huntington.org.



Members in the News

The January-March 2008 issue of *Pacific Horticulture* features two articles by CGLHS members.

Paula Panich, who joined CGLHS last fall, has written an article on "Manzanita." Panich is a garden writer and teacher who commutes between her homes in Los Angeles and Northampton, Massachusetts.

Also featured was a short article on the gardens of Alcatraz by CGLHS member **Carola Ashford**, project manager for the Alcatraz Historic Garden Project. Carola is a landscape architect who responded to a notice in *Eden* and consequently received a fellowship appointment to Alcatraz Island from the Garden Conservancy in 2003. The article documents the progress that has been made over the past four years of partnership between the Garden Conservancy, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, and the National

Park Service. "Garden Conservancy staff and volunteer garden crews now work year-round to uncover garden features, control invasives, and replant four historic gardens around the island."

The rehabilitation of Officer's Row was carried out in the fall of 2006. CGLHS board members were recently transported to the island by staff boat to tour the gardens in advance preparation for our 2009 annual conference at San Francisco. We were amazed to see how good the westside garden looks at this time of year, in spite of the fact gardeners can only attend to it for four months of each year. Breeding sea birds put it off limits for the remaining part of the year.

Judith Tankard says "thank you" for the several good leads she received from CGLHS members about Beatrix Farrand's work in California. We're glad to know someone responded to her request.

Julie Cain, formerly the operations manager at Stanford's engineering library, has just started a new job as program coordinator of Heritage Services, a division of the university's Planning Office. Julie is the author of *Monterey's Hotel del Monte* (Arcadia, 2005) and is working on her Masters in history at Cal State Hayward. With fellow researcher **Marlea Graham**, she has most recently written a short biography of Rudolph Ulrich for the soon to be published second volume of *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*, and an essay on Ulrich's work at the Kearney estate in Fresno; the latter will be published by Fresno's Planning Office under the title *Architecture, Ethnicity and Historic Landscapes of California's San Joaquin Valley*, as an adjunct to the Vernacular Architecture Forum's conference there in April.



Archival Records

An article on the Los Angeles County Arboretum by Susan C. Eubank appeared in the January-March 2008 issue of *Pacific Horticulture*. Eubank has been a librarian for 24 years, and points out that California is lucky enough to have three other horticultural libraries in addition to that at Los Angeles: the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture at the San Francisco Botanical Garden in Strybing Arboretum; the Blaksley Library at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and the Research Library at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

The Los Angeles County Arboretum library holds 35,000 books and subscribes to 300 magazines. A recently received donation will give this library the largest library collection of rose books in the West. CGLHS member **Richard Whitehall** has also recently donated another collection of books about gardens around the world. The library is supported by funding through the county and the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation.

You can support the library through membership in the Foundation or through donations of plant-related books, magazines, videos, and other educational materials, said Eubank. "We may use them for the library or sell them as duplicates to generate revenue for other purchases." Volunteers are always welcome to help with many ongoing tasks. Library staff are currently in the process of putting their card catalog on-line thanks to funding received from the Good Family Foundation. Visit the website: www.arboretum.org.

On a recent visit to the LDS genealogy library at the Oakland temple, we saw a flyer advertising "250+ Killer Digital Libraries & Archives." The list is located at something called the Online Education Database. The address: <http://oedb.org/library/features/250-plus-killer-digital-libraries-and-archives>.

Hundreds of libraries and archives exist online now, and this list contains links to and short descriptions of over 250 of them that focus mainly on local, regional, and U.S. history. The sites are arranged in alpha order by state and are mainly open access, that is, usable by the general public. Only five are listed for California, and several of these are ones we've discussed in these pages before, such as the California Digital Library (CDL) created by the University of California. What you should always keep in mind, as discussed in our last issue, is that many of these sites are not complete; CDL is constantly adding more digital images, not only from the U.C. libraries, but from nearby public libraries such as Oakland's California History Room. Their holdings include some real gems, such as the souvenir photo album of the "Borax" Smith estate.

Where this compilation will probably come in most handy is if you have a subject that extends from California into other states. Rudolph Ulrich, for

example, left California to practice in Colorado, Illinois, New York state, and Michigan. This site helps us learn of archives that we might not turn up otherwise, such as the [Colorado State Archives](#). One small drawback is that the Killer site only contains what we will call (for want of the correct terminology) coded links, that is, the actual address is hidden under a name that just says [California Digital Library](#). Thus we can't pass along the addresses without first clicking on the links. The photograph below was found on the [Oviatt Library Digital Collections](#) site. Within that site is a link to the San Fernando Valley History Digital Library at Cal State University, Northridge. The website address is: <http://digital-library.csun.edu/SFV>. There you can search for photographs by subjects such as 'gardens,' 'amusement parks,' 'cemeteries,' and the like.



Busch Gardens, Van Nuys, circa 1960s. (San Fernando Valley Historical Society) August A. Busch, Jr. opened the second Busch Gardens at Van Nuys in 1954. The 20-acre amusement park contained both formal gardens and native woodlands. It was closed in 1986 due to declining attendance.



Odds & Ends

Call for Entries: 25th Annual Preservation Design Awards

The California Preservation Foundation is now accepting entries for their 25th Annual Preservation Design Awards. A full description of the categories and a list of requirements is available in the entry application packet online at: www.californiapreservation.org. Awards are given in nine categories: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, reconstruction, contextual infill, sustainability, cultural resource studies reports, craftsmanship/preservation technology, and archaeology and interpretive exhibits. To be eligible, projects must be located in California, or for a report or study, must deal with a Californian subject. Projects must have been completed between 1 June 2002 and 31 May 2008. Projects directly involving jurors are not eligible. General entry fees are \$190 if submitted by 5 P.M., 18 April; \$290 if by 5 P.M., 19 May; student entry fee \$75 if submitted by 5 P.M., 19 May. California Preservation Foundation, 5 Third Street, Suite 424, San Francisco, CA 94103. Tel: 415.495.0394. Fax: 415.495.0265. Email: cpf@californiapreservation.org.



Quarryhill seed-grown azaleas.
(M. Graham, 1998.)

A little searching on the Internet one day produced more information on what happened with the **Marsh Building in Monterey**, last mentioned in our Summer 2007 issue. In 2005 the Catholic diocese, who bought the building in 1999, decided "to entertain purchase offers on the Marsh Building and spend our resources on the [Mission San Carlos] cathedral," according to spokesperson Kevin Drabiniski. "The property was bought with the preservation and conservation of this 235-year-old cathedral in mind," he explained. "Our motivations, in terms of securing the land, were solely in preserving the character of the Royal Presidio Chapel." When local preservationists protested the projected demolition of the Marsh Building, the church submitted a report to Monterey city officials, stating that in their estimation, it would require more than \$4 million to bring the Marsh Building into compliance with existing building codes. However, Monterey's city manager pointed out that the building was eligible for the state historic register, a designation that allows a far more lenient building code – and would cost the church a lot less money to restore. Apparently the San Francisco company, *Orientations*, bought it from the church and restored it. We've still not seen inside the gardens, but above the wall were visible a large Japanese maple tree, several ginkgo trees, and some seedling oaks that we hope will soon be removed.

Quarryhill Botanical Garden

celebrated its 20th anniversary last year by dedicating a new, 2,500 square-foot greenhouse, named for its founder, Jane Davenport Jansen. Jansen, who died in 2000, purchased the property in the foothills of the Sonoma Valley in 1968. In 1987 she began to pursue her vision of conserving species of wild-sourced plants from temperate Asia in a designed garden on her site's rocky, upland terrain. Under the supervision of plant collector and nurseryman William McNamara, the vision has been fulfilled. The fall 2007 issue of the *Garden Conservancy News* stated that "Quarryhill today is recognized as a conservation and aesthetic treasure. Twenty of the site's 61 acres are home to one of the largest collections of scientifically documented wild-source Asian plants in North America. Its repository includes rare and endangered plants, and it distributes its plant material to other botanical gardens and research universities in North America."



These clumps of *Rosa rugosa* are 6 feet tall.
(Quarryhill, M. Graham, 1998.)

Odds & Ends (continued)

Historic American Landscape Survey

The next quarterly meeting of the Northern California chapter of the HALS committee will be held on 13 May at the Eugene O'Neill State Historic Park in Danville at 4 P.M.

The 12 February meeting was held at the Flora Grub Nursery, which specializes in drought-tolerant plants from Australia, Africa and Mediterranean climates. They have a wonderful collection of specimen plants, large pots and custom furnishings.

Meeting Minutes:

Cate Bainton is working on identifying, listing and organizing basic data for historic and cultural sites in Northern California. She created a separate database for each county. Having this information will facilitate the preparation of HALS short form documentation (Level III). Cate asks for volunteers to (1) review the data for a county to verify that the site listed does in fact include a historic or cultural landscape with sufficient integrity to be included on the list and (2) add any sites that the reviewer is familiar with. If you are interested in participating, contact Cate at c8baint1@yahoo.com.

Carola Ashford and Shelagh Fritz from the Garden Conservancy reported on the restoration of the historic gardens on Alcatraz. To date, two of the five garden areas have been completed. The rose garden is next. Rose cuttings taken in 1989 by Heritage Rose Foundation members have been propagated at Vintage Gardens nursery in Sebastopol and are now ready for planting. While a Cultural Landscape Inventory has been done, and a Cultural Landscape Report is the next due item on the agenda, Carola thinks that some of the volunteers might be interested in taking on the HALS documentation as well.

Chris Patillo reported that the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) is planning to eliminate two reservoirs in the Montclair neighborhood of Oakland. Both reservoirs are covered

and one has an ornamental fountain. The landscape at the reservoirs was designed by Robert Royston, whose firm has been retained by EBMUD to study alternative uses for the sites after the reservoirs are removed. There is a very active neighborhood group monitoring this development. Some neighbors value the open space, landscape design and fountain, and do not want to lose those amenities. J.C. Miller of Royston, Hanamoto, Alley and Abey Landscape Architects suggested that HALS documentation be done by EBMUD as part of the project.

J.C. also advised that his office has volunteered to take the lead in setting up our web page. We will apply for the URL address: www.HALSca.org.

Cathy Garrett gave a report on the situation at Parkmerced in S.F., the 1950s apartment project with a landscape designed by Thomas Church – at the time, his largest public landscape design. There are multiple entities proposing substantial changes to the site and they are promoting the redevelopment as sustainable design. The development advocates are justifying the removal of many of Church's courtyards by proposing a large scale bioswale that would cut through the site. Staff from the National Trust for Historic Preservation are advocating some level of documentation and possibly a National Register nomination.

HALS Objectives

- Lobby federal legislators for funding of HALS.
- Compile and prioritize a list of local examples of historic landscapes.
- Compile a comprehensive inventory of possible HALS study sites for California.
- Identify one or more sites that merit complete documentation.
- Coordinate HALS activities with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
- Advise on historic preservation laws and standards.

- Educate government agencies and others about the use of HALS for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 4(f) of the Transportation Department Act of 1966, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

- Promote public awareness of HALS.
- Encourage donations from local philanthropists to support HALS.

Olompoli Status Report

Soil probes have confirmed that the locations of garden paths match what was plotted on the basis of historic photographs. The design development documents have been completed and submitted to the client and the state for review. A graduate student has expressed an interest in writing the HALS historic documentation, and photographer Paul Engel has volunteered to do additional photography needed to augment what was done by Brian Grogan last fall. Volunteers are propagating plants, in particular the Sago palm, the mourning cypress, and the pomegranate hedge which enclosed a portion of the garden.

Piedmont Way Status Report

The design development plans for the rehabilitation of Piedmont Way have been completed and submitted to the City of Berkeley for review. At present, the Friends of Piedmont Way have approximately 10% of the total project construction budget secured. This should be enough to complete some of the work in the medians. Fortunately we have a copy of a twenty-two page report written by Olmsted in 1866 that describes his concept for the planting. Instead of the existing high water use turf, the rehabilitation plan calls for low water use ornamental grasses, shrubs and trees, including many species native to California, in keeping with Olmsted's water conscious intent.

Kaiser Roof Garden Status Report

Marlea expects to submit a draft of the historic report for the next meeting. No progress was reported on the drawings since last quarter and the photography is still to be done.

(Continued on page 26.)

Odds & Ends (continued)

Request for Information:

Sheryl Davis wrote to ask for information from members regarding examples of residential water parterres. "My intention is to study an existing site and explore the possibilities of this feature as not only an ornament or contributing biotope but also as a rain catchment and greywater system. I found a case study in *Dwell's* November 2007 issue regarding a therapy pool supplied by rainwater catchment that is surrounded by a beautiful three-tiered green wall where greywater is filtered."

Sheryl is a new graduate student living in Berkeley and is looking for a job or internship opportunity in historic landscape preservation. Her program at the San Francisco Institute of Architecture (SFIA) focuses on utilizing the inherent greenness of historic properties and combining that with new sustainable technologies in the historic preservation and adaptive re-use of both classical-traditional structures and landscapes. "Your consideration for any opportunities you may have available as well as any referrals are greatly appreciated. Please email me and I will be happy to forward my resume to you." Contact Sheryl at sheryladavis@hotmail.com.

How to Join CGLHS

To become a member of the California Garden & Landscape History Society, send a check or money order to Judy Horton, Membership Secretary, 136 1/2 North Larchmont Blvd., #B, Los Angeles CA 90004. See our website: www.cglhs.org for an application form.



California
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Almadale Revisited:

We received a notice in February that the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District (MPROSD), which owns the property in the Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve above Lexington Reservoir, is asking Santa Clara County for \$30,000 to see whether it is practical to restore any of the buildings or landscaping on the Almadale estate of James Flood/Dr.

Harry Tevis, latterly occupied as Alma College by the Sacred Heart Novitiate of Los Gatos. (See "Alma Through the Years," *Eden*, Vol. 9, No. 3 (Fall 2006). Since its abandonment more than two decades ago, the site has been reclaimed by nature. "We'd love to maintain the spirit of the place, to convey a sense of what this place must have been like," said Erica Simmons, a planning technician with the district.

Call for Content

Eden solicits your submissions of scholarly papers, shorter articles, book reviews, information about coming events, news about members' activities and honors, interesting archives or websites you have discovered. In short, send us anything pertaining to California's landscape history that may be of interest to our members. Please contact the editor:



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Marlea Graham, 100 Bear Oaks Drive, Briones, CA 94553-9754.
Telephone: 925.335.9182. Email: maggie94553@earthlink.net.

Deadlines for submissions are the first day of March, June, September and December.

Odds & Ends (continued)

"The question is: What can we do with what's left?" The Tevis mansion burned down in 1970. The Jesuits sold the property to Hong Kong tycoon Stanley Ho in 1989 and the MPROSD purchased the property in 1999. This spring a master plan for the entire Bear Creek preserve will be presented to the public. By 2009, the preserve will finally be opened again.

In addition to a county grant, the district will pay \$30,000 out of its own pocket to hire experts, such as an architectural historian, a geotechnical engineer and a landscape architect historian. It's not the first time that the district has acquired the headache of dilapidated buildings along with pristine open space. It saved the winery and homestead at Picchetti Ranch, built in the late 1890s. It also restored the so-called Red Barn in La

Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, but Almadale may prove to be an impossible task. [Excerpts from *San Jose Mercury News*, 02/10/08, "New Life for Old Campus?" by Lisa M. Krieger.]

The Cultural Landscape Foundation's Landslide 2008 focuses attention on "Marvels of Modernism." Do you know of a Modernist residential property that is in the path of progress? Perhaps a Post-War park or plaza that is scheduled for renovation? Or an abstract or geometric landscape design that is worth saving for future generations to study and take inspiration from? To make a submission to the >



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Landslide list, visit the website www.tclf.org/landslide/2008/ and download a copy of the nomination form. The deadline for submissions is 30 April 2008.

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Deadline for copy for the next *Eden* is: June 1, 2008

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To aid and promote interest in, study of and education about California's garden and landscape history.

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To collect and/or coordinate resources and expertise about the history of California's gardens and landscapes.

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To identify, document and promote preservation/restoration of gardens and landscapes depicting the beauty, culture, wealth, history and diversity of California's gardens and landscapes.

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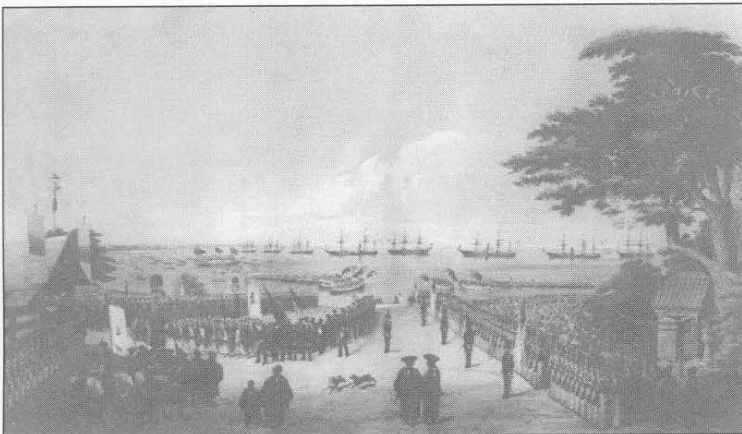


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*Commodore Perry's squadron arrives at Tokyo Bay in 1853.
Lithograph by Sarony & Co., 1855, after Wilhelm Heine.*

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