

# *Virginia Robinson Gardens*

*Fall/Winter Newsletter 2010*

President – Leslie Kavanaugh

Editor – Nancy Miller

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# Message from the President

LESLIE KAVANAUGH — PRESIDENT 2009-2010

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As we enter a new decade, the Friends of Robinson Gardens welcome the opportunity to restore and enhance the historic excellence of the Virginia Robinson Estate. One hundred years ago, Virginia and Harry Robinson saw nothing but possibilities in the barren Southern California landscape that surrounded them. It was to them a “diamond in the rough,” a stone which, when cut and polished, would surely be a perfect gem. In that spirit, our Annual Benefit Season will have gems as its theme. On May 7, 2010, the Friends will present their Patron Gala “Jewels & All That Jazz” where the Michael Kazanjian Family representing the Kazanjian Foundation will honor Virginia Robinson Gardens by accepting the *Spirit of Beverly Hills Award*. One week later, on May 14th, the 2010 “...into the garden” Benefit Tour, *Garden Gems: The Perfect Setting*, will once again present five outstanding private gardens, custom floral and design exhibitions, a spring boutique, fashion show, and other exciting presentations at the

Estate. This year’s Grand Marshal for the Garden Benefit Tour will be Peri Ellen Berne, Past President and current Vice President of the Rodeo Drive Retail Committee. She has served as event co-chair for the Rodeo Drive Walk of Style Awards, on the Board of Directors of the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce and supports LUPUS LA. Our Patron Gala and Garden Tour provide the major funding for the educational programs and restoration projects at the Gardens throughout the year.

As president of the Friends of Robinson Gardens, I want to personally thank you for supporting the Virginia Robinson Gardens either as a Society member or a Friend or as a member of the community. If you would like to become more involved in the programs at the Gardens, please take a moment to review some of the activities listed below. Our remarkable garden is a place where you will surely find unexpected rewards. Hope to see you soon.

*Leslie Kavanaugh*

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## Involvement Opportunities

**DOCENT PROGRAMS** – Outgoing, energetic volunteers are needed to act as docent guides for public tours. Training classes are provided throughout the year. For further information, please call Jesse Harris at 310.550.2065

**GARDEN VOLUNTEERS** – Energetic volunteers with “green thumbs” are needed to help with the light weeding, pruning and seasonal projects in the gardens. For further information, please call Jesse Harris at 310.550.2065

**ANNUAL BENEFIT GARDEN TOUR HOSTS/ HOSTESSES** – Outgoing volunteers are needed to act as hosts/docents at the five private gardens featured on the 2010 “...into the garden” Benefit Tour – Friday, May 14. Participants will be invited to attend a pre-tour of the gardens on April 30th, where they will be given docent instruction and pertinent information for the actual tour day. Those interested should contact Marion Buxton at 805.523.0259.

**2010 “...into the garden” Benefit MAILING WEEK** – Volunteers are needed to help with the Benefit mailings for the Garden Tour and Patron Gala – Monday, March 29 through Thursday, April 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Whether you can come for an hour or the day, we welcome you. Please contact Evie Carlson at 310.286.0719

**OFFICE STAFFING** – Volunteers are needed to help with general office activities Monday-Friday from April 1 through May 14. Duties may include phone ticket sales, mailings, benefit donations, etc. Volunteers will be supervised by Bianca Costin, Events Coordinator. Three hour shifts are requested. Please call Bianca Costin at 310.550.2068 to sign-up.

**DATA INPUT** – Volunteers who are proficient at data input in Excel are needed. Work hours may be scheduled according to the volunteer’s time availability from Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Please contact Bianca Costin at 310.550.2068.

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# Membership Luncheon



New members Susan Chalek and Marni Hoffman with Luncheon Chairman Kerstin Royce, Ellen Lipson and Marie True Evans.



Past Presidents Kathy Toppino and Tracy Smith.



New members Kathie Johnson, Regina Drucker, Annette Schnell and Krista Everage.

## WELCOME NEW FRIENDS

Maud Adams  
Joan Borenstein  
Carol Bressan  
Jackie Burdorf  
Gail Campbell-Newman  
Susan Chalek  
Joyce Chernik

Elaine Doran  
Regina Drucker  
Krista Everage  
Renee Faggen  
Gunilla Horacek  
Adrienne Horwitch  
Kathie Johnson

Pamela Kahan  
Cathy Kurstin  
Ann Christie Petersen  
Greer Saunders  
Annette Schnell  
Amy Schwartz  
Toni Stern

I.H. Sutnick  
Jacqueline Tesoriero  
Susan Werner  
Jayne Wilson



New members and Friends enjoying lunch and making plans for the new year.



Floral arrangements by Jeanne Anderson.



Botanical Illustration Chairman Tania Norris with Past Presidents Lois Howard and Donna Wolff.

Overlooking the velvet green hills of the Riviera Golf Course, shaded by graceful trees and fragrant flowers, the Friends welcomed twenty-five new members at the Annual Membership Luncheon held on September 30, 2009. Ric and Suzanne Kayne graciously gave their beautiful home for this event. A reception was held on the terrace, where botanical paintings by students in the Virginia Robinson Gardens Botanical Art Program displayed their work.

New and old members had an opportunity to enjoy the spectacular views while making plans for the coming year.

A delicious three-course luncheon, catered by the Kitchen For Exploring Foods was served. President Leslie Kavanaugh reported on the "State of the Gardens" emphasizing the financial reorganization that has been implemented over the past year. Each new member was introduced and past presidents honored.

Christofle of Beverly Hills provided an elegant favor to take home.

The day was perfect thanks to the hard work and unending talent of chairmen Kristin Royce and Laura Alpert, as well as, Shiva Mostael and Marion Buxton, all members of the Membership Outreach Committee. A special thank you to Jeanne Anderson for the beautiful table design and enchanting centerpieces – Virginia would have been very pleased.

# 2009 Children's Holiday Party



Rockin' out at Robinson Gardens!



Santa greets the children and distributes gifts.



Friend Julia Klein helps out in the Holiday "Spa".

The Friends of Virginia Robinson Gardens are always dreaming of a "green" Christmas, but this year's Children's Holiday Party made it a reality! Co-Chairmen Susanna Scroggins, Chrys Stamatis and Shari Weiner introduced their Eco-Green theme with seeded paper invitations ready-to-plant. The green theme contributed with corrugated cardboard signs and recycled holiday decorations donated by new Friend Joan Borinstein. Even the Evergreen trees and reindeer that served as centerpieces will be used again.

On December 5, 2009 the Friends welcomed 67 children from Five Acres, Hathaway, Hillsides and Maryvale. Our guests were invited to participate in many different activities on the tennis court, where a solar-powered DJ first serenaded the crowd. With a little bit of coaxing everyone was soon rockin' out on the Rose Garden patio! Children flocked to

the book corner, cozily outfitted with blow-up furniture, to hear storytelling, decorate a Christmas cookie, receive a manicure, or craft a custom-frame for their very own holiday portrait. Guitar-Hero joined the usual array of shooting hoops and bowling pins.

Each year a highlight of the party is a walking tour of the Gardens, led by Tim Lindsay and other trained docents. With ecology as our theme, the tours presented a real opportunity to tie the environment to the children's daily lives. One of our generous donors, FIJI Water, provided POM drinks and pomegranate teas for the children's enjoyment throughout the day. The docents were able to show the children the pomegranate trees and hedges in bloom in the Italian Garden, and demonstrate in a garden setting, the actual development of the flower, the seed, and the mature pomegranates from which the juice comes.

As always, lunch was a wonderful buffet from Pie 'n Burger in Pasadena, but the real spotlight was on Santa (our wonderful volunteer, Rolf Tillman), who presented personalized back-packs for each child filled with a new robe, socks, first-run movie DVD's, CD's, books, school supplies, hair ornaments, dental kits, and more. As a special memento, Cindy Leuty Jones caught the "holiday spirit" in each child with a custom photograph that he/she could take home.

Many thanks to Co-Chairs Susanna, Chrys, and Shari and all the devoted elves who worked so hard to make the Children's Holiday Party a day to remember.



## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS FOR MAKING THIS DAY POSSIBLE

Ace of Hearts	Susie Fishman	Barbara Marcus	Debra Shaw
Jeanne Anderson	Katrina Fuchs	Linda Meadows	Lee Shrednick
Maralee Beck	Adrienne Horwitch	Mary Helen Michel	Janet Tavakoli
Robin Blake	Margaret Hudson	Nancy Miller	Jacqueline Tesoriero
Carolyn Bloom	Barbara Jaynes	Shiva Moshtael	Cynthia Tribull
Jill Collins	Audrey Jessup	Angela Movassaghi	Elinor Turner
Lily Collins	Kathryn Johnson	Lisa Nesbitt	Stephanie Vahn
Margaret Dalis	Cindy Jones	Ann Christie Petersen	Shari Weiner
Mitch Dawson	Dorothy Kamins	Debbie Rhein	Susan Werner
DK Events	Sandy Katz	POM	Elizabeth Woodard
Barbara Dohrmann	Leslie Kavanaugh	Kerstin Royce	Y Water
Regina Drucker	Cathy Kurstin	Susanna Mercedes	
Renee Fagen	Suz Landay	Scroggins	

## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Carol Amberg	Rosanna Grabel	Shiva Moshtael
JC Applebaum	Adrienne Horwitch	Gail Newman
Maralee Beck	Audrey Jessup	Ann Petersen
Elissa Bregman	Kritina Johnson	Kerstin Royce
Evie Carlson	Cindy Jones	Marcella Ruble
Joyce Chernick	Marge Karney	Ilene Samson
Jill & Lily Collins	Leslie Kavanaugh	Anette Schnell
Claudia Deutsch	Cathy Kurstin	Greer Saunders
Elaine Doran	Dani Lancer	Amy Schwartz
Barbara Dohrman	Suz Landay	Debra Shaw
Barbara Duskin	Joan Lindsay	Lee Shrednik
Krista Everage	Tim Lindsay	Toni Stern
Cindy Fields	Barbara Marcus	Rolf Tillmann
Bobbie Furrey	Renee Michael	Leslie Tillmann



# Educational Lectures and Tours

## **“The Magic and Mystery of Lotusland”**

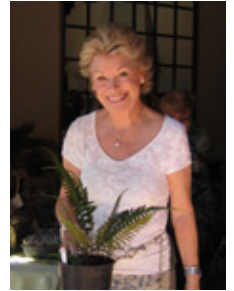
**Gwen Stauffer, Executive Director of Lotusland.**

**September 10, 2009**



Sunday Taylor, Gwen Stauffer and Jeanne Anderson

The “magic” of Lotusland began in 1882 when Ralph Stevens established the Tanglewood Nursery on 37 acres in Montecito, California. Gwen Stauffer, Executive Director of Lotusland presented the parallel histories of the property and its final owner, Ganna Walska, who bought it with her sixth husband, Theos Bernard. Though the marriage did not last, Madame Walska named it Lotusland and dedicated the rest of her life to creating a remarkable, innovative, mystical estate. Lotusland is supported by the foundation that she created before her death in 1984. The lecture was illustrated by glorious photographs of Madame Walska and her dramatic gardens, including the Amphitheater, Geranium Garden, Bromeliad Garden, Japanese Garden, Aloe Garden, as well as, the newly established “vintage” Cactus Garden. A delectable luncheon in the Pool Pavilion’s sun-filled conservatory followed the presentation.



Kersten Royce takes home a cutting from Lotusland.

## **“The Gardens of Brécy: A Lasting Landscape”**

**Eric Haskell, Professor of French and Humanities at Scripps College**

**October 1, 2009**



Eric Haskell

Eric Haskell, noted lecturer on historical gardens and their conservation, discussed The Gardens of Brécy. These privately owned 17th century gardens are known for their meticulously restored, richly ornamented Italianate style. The gardens are laid out over four terraces, presenting a “labyrinth of ideas” translated from the original estate built in 1653 by François Le Bas. The garden we see today is a tribute to Didier and Barbara Wirth, whose “passion for the place has brought it into the twenty-first century with verve and a certain art de vivre that has been unequalled, perhaps even since Brécy’s infancy.” Mr. Haskell shared many beautiful pictures of the gardens and the stone ornamentation on the house and its surroundings. Each terrace presented a different “rhythm” or design experience. “The formalist agenda resonates between hard and soft scapes, exemplified by the stone ornaments and the verdant topiaries that occupy each level of the layout.” During lunch, assisted by his charming wife Danielle, Mr. Haskell graciously signed his book – *The Gardens of Brécy: A Lasting Landscape*.



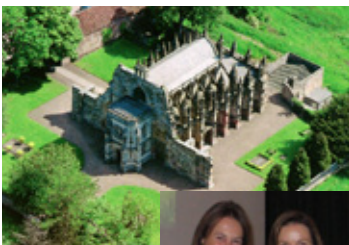
Book sales cheerfully managed by Danielle Haskell.

## **“Rosslyn Chapel: Beyond the Da Vinci Code”**

**Lecture by Helen, Countess of Rosslyn**

**in association with the Royal Oak Society and the Beverly Hills Women’s Club.**

**November 4, 2009**



Rosslyn Chapel presentation by Countess Helen of Rosslyn with Claudia Deutsch.



Brought to the attention of worldwide audiences by Dan Brown’s “*The Da Vinci Code*”, Rosslyn Chapel is now undergoing a £13 million conservation and site improvement project, which is scheduled for completion in July of 2010. The Countess Helen presented an illustrated history of the chapel since its founding in 1446 by William Sinclair. She shared many of the intriguing stories associated with the Chapel, among them the Apprentice Pillar, Musical Boxes, Green Men, Ears of Corn and the Crypt, believed by some to contain the mummified head of Christ, the Holy Grail, the treasure of the Knights Templar or the original jewels of Scotland. Educated scholars have refuted the validity of any or all of these legends. After the lecture a beautiful buffet luncheon was served in the Beverly Hills Women’s Club Formal Dining Room.

# Educational Lectures and Tours



Robin Blake with Eddie Zarastian



Holiday centerpiece created during the workshop.



Jeanne Anderson, Education Chairman, shares a holiday floral decoration with the audience.

## **“Dazzling Centerpieces For The Holidays” with Eddie Zarastian Of Tic-Toc Couture Floral Creations**

**November 12, 2009**

November 12th was a cool, cloudy morning, the perfect Fall setting for the 45 women who gathered to have brunch and watch Eddie Zarastian create beautiful centerpieces for holiday tables. Eddie regaled the guests for over two hours with his stories of Hollywood glamour and his demonstrations of easy and festive centerpieces. Using a combination of fresh and artificial materials, and unique vessels and containers, Eddie created wreaths and floral arrangements that could decorate a holiday table, mantel or door. Surrounded by aromatic seasonal greens, exquisite ribbons, and hand selected blooms, Eddie worked steadily creating one gorgeous arrangement after another, encouraging his audience to go home and do it themselves.

## **“Cultivating Man and Nature: The Novels and Gardens of Edith Wharton” by Frank Dwyer**

**January 14, 2010**



Luncheon centerpieces capture the spirit of Edith Wharton

A poet, playwright, director, actor, translator and popular lecturer, Frank Dwyer enchanted the Friends of Robinson Gardens and their guests with an informative lecture on the life and novels of Edith Wharton.

Born to a wealthy family in 1862, Edith lived a life of privilege. Her imaginative writing skills began early. She wrote, “Words sang to me like birds in an enchanted forest.” Her family spent many years in France, providing Edith, then nicknamed “Pussy,” with aesthetic experiences that would influence the rest of

her life, particularly in regard to interior design and garden landscape. She later wrote a number of books on Italian gardens as well. Mr. Dwyer presented interesting insights into the novels of Edith Wharton, focusing particularly on the *House of Mirth*. He highlighted references to flower imagery in the book, beginning with the central character, Lily Bart, who for lack of position and fortune, had to rely on her “ornamental beauty” to survive. “Writing fiction and gardening have a great deal in common,” Dwyer said. “Both seek to bring an order to the world.” Edith Wharton and Virginia Robinson shared a passion for gardening that brought order to their personal lives and great pleasure to the community that surrounded them. A formal luncheon followed the lecture, where the tables draped in romantic linens were graced with centerpieces created from “antiqued” books, pearls, and flowers by Jeanne Anderson. A drawing was held for the centerpieces, each of which contained a novel by Edith Wharton.



Mr. and Mrs. Dwyer along with Event Chairmen Sunday Taylor and Jeanne Anderson.



Society Chairmen Suz Landay and Marge Karney with Friends Events Coordinator Bianca Costin



# Educational Lectures and Tours

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOPS**

**Anne Marie Evans**

**Two week-long sessions**

**February 2-5, 2010 and February 9-12, 2010**



Anne Marie Evans, Director of the diploma course in botanical painting at the Chelsea Physic Garden in London, this year will conduct two five-day sessions on the classical art of botanical illustration. The botanical subjects for the workshops will be selected from the plants and flowers at Virginia Robinson Gardens. The class is structured to assure that students of all stages of artistic ability will advance rapidly and have a painting "worth framing" by the

end of the week. Saturday sessions will be held at a location to be announced.

**Class fee: \$550 for Society Members and Friends; Non-members fee: \$575**



*Superintendent Tim Lindsay  
with Anne Marie Evans*

### **COLLECTING FOR THE PUBLIC**

#### **TEN YEARS OF PAINTING ACQUISITIONS AT THE GETTY MUSEUM**

**Scott Schaefer, Senior Curator of Paintings at the J. Paul Getty Museum**

**February 16, 2010**

Over the past decade, the Department of Paintings at the J. Paul Getty Museum has added almost 60 paintings and pastels to the Museum's collection. In this presentation, Scott Schaefer Senior Curator of Paintings discusses how the works contribute to the Museum's collection and form the basis of activities at the Museum.



### **DINING WITH VIRGINIA: THE LIFESTYLE AND MENUS OF THE FIRST LADY OF BEVERLY HILLS**

**March 11, 2010**

**Maite Gomez-Rejon of ArtBites**

Maite Gomez has taught classes at the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Getty. Combining her love of fine art and culinary art, she has designed a class specifically for Virginia Robinson's home and kitchen. We will tour the house and discuss the Robinson's art collections followed by a cooking class from a menu of one of Virginia's luncheons from her earliest days in Beverly Hills.

### **BOUNTIFUL BEAUTIFUL BROMELIADS**

**March 16, 2010**

Paul T. Isley from Rainforest Flora, the oldest and finest Tillandsia nursery in the country, will make a presentation on the history and culture of growing Tillandsia, a genus of the air plant bromeliad, that is arguably on the cutting edge of the plant kingdom followed by plant sale and book signing.

### **HELPING TO PRESERVE AMERICA'S EXCEPTIONAL GARDENS**

**April 8, 2010**

**Suzanne Rheinstein – Garden Conservancy Board Member**

Since its founding in 1989, the Garden Conservancy has done more than any other national institution to save and preserve America's exceptional gardens for the education and enjoyment of the public. Board member and renowned interior designer Suzanne Rheinstein will give a talk and presentation on the passionate work being done by this group in over 90 gardens across the country.



# Staff Profile



## WELCOME DALE WITT A Man for All Seasons

In April 2009, Dale Witt became the new caretaker for Robinson Gardens. Assuming Ivo Hadjev's position, he lives in the staff quarters to provide security for the property. In addition, he lends his considerable talent to the gardens as a professional horticulturist. Already his many talents are evident all over the estate. His spirit and skill in pruning and restoring vitality to "vintage" plants is remarkable. Perhaps it is because he also holds master degrees in Divinity and Horticultural Science and a B.S. in Landscape Architecture. Dale directed the redevelopment at the UCLA's Amphitheater and added a new Australian section at the Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden. Previously, Dale was the Senior Arboretum Gardener at the L.A. County Arboretum in Arcadia.

Indeed, Dale Witt is a man for all seasons. Dale's other interests include choral and piano recitals, bike riding and hiking, and reading history books. He enjoys researching and growing plants in our Mediterranean climate and teaching others about proper horticulture techniques. As a landscape professional, he offers consultation in design and provides a specialty maintenance service with attention to detail and corrective horticulture practices. Call Dale for more information on his specialty landscape services 310.916.7859.

Dale is often in the garden, tending one of his projects. If you should come upon him, please introduce yourself. He'll undoubtedly share a valuable gardening tip and brighten your day.

## **"...into the garden" BENEFIT GARDEN TOUR** *"Garden Gems: The Perfect Setting"*

Grand Marshal – Peri Ellen Berne  
Vice President of the Rodeo Drive Retailers Committee

**Friday, May 14, 2010**

*Four special events in one spectacular benefit*

- Self guided tour of five notable private gardens each demonstrating a facet of exceptional Southern California landscape design.
- Exclusive Floral and Design exhibitions in the historic Virginia Robinson residence.
- Sparkling Gift and Accessory Boutique featuring dozens of artists and quality vendors.
- Elegant luncheon on the Great Lawn, Informal Fashion Show.
- Book Signings, Silent Auction and Opportunity Drawings.

General Admission Ticket price: \$200 (\$125 is tax-deductible funding restorations and education projects at Virginia Robinson Gardens.)  
Invitations will be mailed April 5, 2010.



# *The Many Faces of Robinson Gardens*

*How well do you know Virginia Robinson Gardens.  
See if you know where to find each of these faces.*



1: Entering driveway on the left. 2: Entering driveway on the right. 3: Great lawn fountain. 4: Pool fountain. 5: Kitchen Terrace. 6: Lower Palm Terrace Garden. 7: Pompeii poolside table. 8: Kitchen vegetable garden. 9: Three Frog Fountain. 10: Upper level Italian Garden by Huntington Cactus. 11 & 12: Lower Italian garden.

# 2010 Benefit Patron Gala

## SAVE THE DATE

*Friday, May 7, 2010*

### *“Jewels and All That Jazz”*

*Enjoy a shimmering evening under the stars, dining and dancing  
on the Great Lawn of the extraordinary Virginia Robinson Estate,  
reliving a lifestyle and time when the city was yet to be,  
when other pioneers lived on distance hills  
and dreams sparkled just beyond the horizon.*

#### **The Kazanjian Foundation**

Recipient of the “Spirit of Beverly Hills” Award

honors

Friends of Robinson Gardens



*Recipients of the 2010 “Spirit of Beverly Hills” Award  
Virginia, Douglas and Michael Kazanjian representing the Kazanjian Family Foundation.*

*Sponsorships received prior to March 15 will be acknowledged on the Gala invitation.*



# Message from the County

TIM LINDSAY — SUPERINTENDENT OF ROBINSON GARDENS

## THE GLORIOUS CAMELLIA BECKONS THE SUN TO RISE.

By Timothy L. Lindsay



During a brisk winter morning, while strolling through the Italian Terrace Garden, I found myself surrounded by camellia bushes heavy with bud and bloom. Flower colors ranged from blood red to the palest of pink, with the occasional pure white bloom. Some flowers were mixed red and white reminding me of a peppermint stick. The

flower form varied greatly as well. Some were reminiscent of peonies; others looked like roses, still others like carnations. It's no wonder many people mistakenly think the flower



will produce fragrance. Most do not, however, one new to the scene is called 'Sensation' and it does have a mild, yet distinct fragrance.

Once the camellia had arrived in California in the late 1800's, from its native counties of China and Japan, there was no looking back. In fact, by 1936, Mr. Boddy, a newspaper man by trade, a horticulturist by nature, had assembled a 25 acre commercial camellia forest in La Canada-Flintridge, now known as Descanso Gardens.

Mr. Boddy's camellias were picked and shipped daily to the east coast, via environmentally controlled train cars on the Southern Pacific line. Imagine the New Yorker's delight when meeting the train to purchase camellia blooms, used to adorn their parlors in the dead of winter. Regardless of the brief cut life of a camellia flower, people have an insatiable appetite for their perfect form and mood enhancing color. After picking a camellia simply allow the two or three leaves under the bud support the flower like legs, in a swallow dish of water. Avoid allowing the flower petals to get wet, but be sure the cut stem is submerged in the water. Place it on a table in indirect light and it will last for several days.

Still in existence today, Nuccio's nursery, in Altadena, California was established by an Italian family in 1935, and continues to be a world class grower of rare and unusual camellias. Virginia Robinson, a regular customer of Nuccio's Nursery, befriended Mr. Nuccio senior and as the years ensued; he eventually bred a semi-double orchid pink camellia and named it after her. Virginia Robinson camellia in bloom, not only reminds you her favorite color was pink, but also establishes the idea that you must be a very special person to have a camellia named after you. At the Virginia Robinson Gardens, adjacent to the Three Frog Fountain, you will find in late February, a simple white blooming camellia, named by Virginia, after her dear friend Coco Chanel. And it is no wonder; as it totally resembles the silk camellia Chanel designed as her insignia, provided to wear on each of her creations. When this camellia was in season, Virginia preferred to wear the real camellia on her Chanel dress and this was no secret to Coco, who was honored to have a plant in Virginia's garden named after her.

Join us for a leisurely stroll in the garden to see our 96 varieties of camellias. The bloom season is long, starting the six months of color in mid-November with *Camellia sasanqua* 'Shishi-Gashira' and finishes with a flourish of many varieties in late April.

It's difficult not to notice the extreme beauty of the camellia flower. So beautiful is its color, it beckons the sun to rise; so perfect its form in the soft morning light, it brings joy to all who see it.

VIRGINIA ROBINSON CAMELLIA





# *Class Notes from the Superintendent*

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**September 24, 2009**

## ***“Timing is Everything”***

**How to effectively water your garden by properly programming your irrigation clock.**

Virginia Robinson Gardens Superintendent, Tim Lindsay gave practical examples on how to design your irrigation system, so thirsty plants are grouped in some areas, while more drought tolerant plants are grouped in other areas, to avoid over watering some plants at the expense of under watering others.

Types of irrigation clocks and spay heads were discussed, with examples of their correct application in the landscape. The basics of how to manually shut off you irrigation system during the winter rainy season, to conserve water, was emphasized in his presentation.

**October 22, 2009**

## ***“Design Perspective and Sustainability”***



The design and esthetic of gardens were discussed in relationship to the gardens sustainability over time, with examples of design practices that are not only beautiful but sustainable with a minimal input of resources.



*Photograph by Tim Lindsay*