THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM
Alive and Well at Lotusland
LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It is important to take time to refresh and recalibrate as each year begins anew.

The human spirit thrives on passion, hope, and wonder, and Lotusland induces these feelings to help us to be inspired and renewed as we embark on the new year. In a time when we have been stripped of many of life’s pleasures, fostering creativity and our connection to the natural world induces joy. We can all benefit by adding a little euphoria to the pandemic’s doldrum days.

Perhaps it is this ardor and affection that keeps our volunteers coming back to the Garden? Of the more than 250 volunteers celebrated among these pages, each has their own unique story and special bond with Lotusland. Many of these love affairs span decades and most will last a lifetime.

On behalf of our dedicated staff and our amazing community of members and supporters, we are grateful for the smiles and spirits of our devoted Lotusland volunteers who keep showing up for the Garden…day after day, year after year. Behind their masks, we witness a sparkle of delight in the eyes of our volunteers when they work in the Garden.

The benefits of volunteer service are vast – not only does Lotusland enjoy a healthier organization; the volunteer expands their community of friends and supports a thriving eco-system. Lotusland volunteers gain increased knowledge and environmental sensitivity, and experience the boost to physical and emotional health that comes from spending time in nature.

It is only with volunteer stewardship that Lotusland is able to remain open and be shared with the public. We owe them a debt of gratitude and trust that the Garden offers each of them a special seduction that has its own rewards.

I hope your resolution for the New Year includes more frequent visits to Lotusland. You might even find yourself compelled to become a volunteer!

Best wishes for a healthy and happy 2021,

Rebecca Anderson
Executive Director
randerson@lotusland.org

MISSION

We preserve and enhance the unique, historic estate of Madame Ganna Walska, care for and improve its collections, and develop its conservation and horticulture programs, so they educate us, inspire us, and advance our understanding and appreciation of the importance of plants in our lives and in the life of the planet.
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In this edition of our newsletter, we joyfully celebrate Lotusland’s volunteers, many of whom you may recognize from your docent-led tours or as Garden attendants. One group of volunteers with whom you may not be familiar, however, is our Board of Trustees. From our founding Board, which transformed Lotusland from a private estate to a public garden, to our current Board, these dedicated individuals have helped keep Lotusland thriving through their leadership, stewardship, hard work, strategizing and fundraising. Here, I would like to thank and recognize each of our past Board volunteers, who most certainly deserve special recognition.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year to each of you and your loved ones.

— Lesley Cunningham, President, Board of Trustees

Former Trustees (listed chronologically)

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Past President & Lifetime Honorary Trustee**
Arthur Gaudi,  
Lifetime Honorary Trustee
Reginald Faletti, Founding President**
Elizabeth Dake**
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Robert Emmons,  
Past President & Lifetime Honorary Trustee
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** deceased
THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM

Alive and Well at Lotusland

By Volunteer Peggy Koegler

THERE IS A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP between Ganna Walska Lotusland and its vibrant team of over 250 dedicated volunteers. By donating their time and passion, our volunteers are able to expand their horizons by learning new skills, temporarily escape the stresses of everyday life, and apply their talents to the benefit of Lotusland. Working at Lotusland can provide a sense of purpose, and helps you stay physically and mentally healthy. Volunteers are the life-blood of the Garden, and are a large part of the sustainability of the organization. Nearly 24,000 invaluable volunteer hours were logged in the year 2020. The opportunities are as diverse as our volunteers themselves. Every department benefits as volunteers work with the plants, interface with our guests, help in the office, serve on the Board of Trustees or on a committee. Everyone is a vital link in the chain of Ganna Walska Lotusland’s success. The opportunity to be in a beautiful garden is an obvious benefit. Several volunteers mention the spell that Ganna Walska casts on all who walk through the Lotusland gate. Everyone has an experience during their volunteer time that is particularly memorable, a life enriching story about being in the Garden.

MEET JUST A FEW OF OUR HUNDREDS OF REMARKABLE VOLUNTEERS:

JOAN HAZELL, former researcher and writer for National Geographic, recalls the time that a famous classical conductor and his entourage arrived in the Garden initially unimpressed. But as Lotusland was revealed to him, he fell under the spell of Ganna Walska, his only words were “Magic.” Joan says, “Just look around you. Gardening is an everchanging art that keeps my brain waves stimulated.”

DAVE HEINZ, a retired engineer and sculptor, sees the Garden as “an exciting kinetic sculpture — dynamic and changing.” At the end of one of his tours, a highlight was when a four year-old boy beamed up at Dave, proclaiming him to be his “new best friend.”

BONNIE BLAKLEY, an ESL instructor and Spanish teacher, cannot imagine “a nicer place to spend time!”
CATHY CHIU translated Chinese writings for Lotusland about the lotus plant in the early 1990s and later became a docent. When asked what she loves about Lotusland, she responded, “Nature! Being outdoors!”

PAT CROTTEAU is a retired medical device engineer. What he loves most about volunteering at Lotusland is meeting the guests from all parts of the globe and his passion is to enthusiastically “learn new things!”

CAROL TERRY was enrolled in the Santa Barbara City College Horticulture program in 1991. She worked as an intern with the Lotusland gardeners and went on to have a rewarding career in landscape horticulture for Santa Barbara City Parks. Carol has returned to Lotusland as a volunteer and enjoys working in the Bromeliad Garden with Mike Furner.

SANDY DEROUSSE fondly remembers a French family on a tour where the elderly couple would take turns riding in a wheelchair. The husband was determined to allow his wife the sole use of the wheelchair, and he managed to walk the entire Garden, proving to himself that he could do it. Sandy received a note of thanks in the weeks to follow, saying that the gentleman was inspired to walk every day.

LARRY DISHAROON twice took a horticulture class offered by Adult Education in the early 1990s because a tour of Lotusland was a featured field trip. He exclaimed that he fell in love with Ganna Walska, and has proclaimed himself a “Defender of the Madame.” To Larry, “The Garden is beyond all expectations.”

KATHY HULICK, a retired dental hygienist, docent, and volunteer in the archives, declares that her interest in Ganna Walska has revealed “an incredible woman with a heart of gold.”

JEAN PARRY, a former college administrator, has been active at Lotusland for more than two decades and says she is “so inspired by Madame’s life and creative vision that she is determined to somehow stay involved in Lotusland.” She helps in the Garden Shop and assists in caring for the Fern Garden.

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KITTY THOMASSIN, Lotusland’s Volunteer Manager seamlessly manages the Volunteer Program — she is its heart and soul. Kitty started at Lotusland as a volunteer docent and graduated in 2006. She has been employed as Lotusland’s Volunteer Coordinator for the past nine years and is responsible for keeping more than 250 volunteers busy and motivated.

Visit Lotusland.org/volunteer to sign up to be a volunteer and to see videos of more volunteers sharing their reflections.

Lotusland is always looking for new dedicated and friendly volunteers. Call Kitty Thomassin, Volunteer Manager at 805.969.3767, ext. 112, email kthomassin@lotusland.org.
Thank You to Our Garden Volunteers
WE CELEBRATED THESE MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES IN 2020

25+ YEARS OF SERVICE
Jayne M. Burton 26
Jeff Chemnick 27
JoAnn Mermis 25
Bruce Tiffney 31
Sharon Crawford 25

20 + YEARS OF SERVICE
Susan Bjork 21
Martin Dent 20
Larry Disharoon 20
Faye Hampton 20
Valerie Halverson 24
Janet Hunter 24
Marge Kelly 24
Kathe Klock 24
Arlene Belmontes 14
Loretta Berlin 16
Connie Campbell 12
Curt Coughlin 19
Chantal Evrard 12
Jim Foster 16
Margaret Gamo 13
Loretta Berlin 16
Bonnie Blakley
Claudia Borfiga
Harvey Bottelsen
Rick Boyer
Susan Braden
Jane Brody
Mary Bromage
Ann Bronstein
Susan Brunn
Mary Jane Buchanan
Jenny Burnell
Linda Burns
Linda Butterwick
Martha Ann Castaneda
Judith Chandler
Solveig Chandler
Anne Chewning
Cathy Chiu
Linda Conger
Pat Croteau
Lynne Cummings
James Cunningham
Randi Danson
Renee de Jong
Jennifer Davila
Cara DeAmicis
Brian Dempsey
Liz Denzel
Michael DeRousse
Sandy DeRousse
Deborah Donohue
Nancy Dorey
Marc Effron
Diane Evans
Mary Ferris
Karl Kras 10
Joan Kreiss 14
Murph Levy 11
Arthur Lindo 11
Charity Walton-Masters 14
Jennifer McCurry 19
Craig Morgan 10
Debbie Murphy 10
Dorinda Murry 14
Christine Nail 10
Suzy Pelosky 14
Sandy Russell 14
Mary Sadeghian 12
Lynne Scott 18
Pat Sheppard 18
Hillary Tentler 10
Linda Thomas 14
Steve Timbrook, PhD 16
Cricket Twichell 14
Carol Weingartner 16
John Vasi 16
Sherman Vincent 18
Laurie Wolf 16
Judith Finn
Donnis Galvan
Sherry Gapos
Ron Garber
Rebecca Garbett
Bill Gillette
Mary Glink
Sandy Grasso-Boyd
Marcia Green
Karen Greenwald
Christine Gress
David Gress
Douglas Hall
Julie Hall
Aira Harris
Dee Hasted
Grigor Hasted
Katie Hatch
Allyson Hayward
Joan Hazell
Gail Herson
Kathy Hulick
Stephanie Ingraham
Claire Johnson
Lynn Johnson
Marcia Keen
Kathy Kelly
Barb Kennedy
Carole Kennedy
Pauline Kiernan
Alessandra Knight
Peggy Koegler
John Koegler
Monica Koegler-Blaha
Minda Kraines

10+ YEARS OF SERVICE
Carol Beamer 14
Arlene Belmontes 14
Loretta Berlin 16
Connie Campbell 12
Curt Coughlin 19
Chantal Evrard 12
Jim Foster 16
Margaret Gamo 13
Linda Gault 16
Aira Harris
Dee Hasted
Grigor Hasted
Katie Hatch
Allyson Hayward
Joan Hazell
Gail Herson
Kathy Hulick
Stephanie Ingraham
Claire Johnson
Lynn Johnson
Marcia Keen
Kathy Kelly
Barb Kennedy
Carole Kennedy
Pauline Kiernan
Alessandra Knight
Peggy Koegler
John Koegler
Monica Koegler-Blaha
Minda Kraines

UP TO 10 YEARS OF SERVICE
Max Acuna
Eliza Aguilar
Herb Aldwinckle
Mary Lou Ardohain
Annie Athar
Rodney Baker
Gabi Barysch-Crosbie
Linda Bednarски
Robert Blaha
Judith Finn
Donnis Galvan
Sherry Gapos
Ron Garber
Rebecca Garbett
Bill Gillette
Mary Glink
Sandy Grasso-Boyd
Marcia Green
Karen Greenwald
Christine Gress
David Gress
Douglas Hall
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Sherman Vincent 18
Laurie Wolf 16

Karl Kras
Catherine Lee
Carla Lejade
Bambi Leonard
Kristin Lewis
Philip Lief
Robin Lill
Harry Linden
Sylvia Limon
Lynn Lopez
Debra Lorier
Harlis Maggard
Liz Martin
Michele Martin
Kate McGuinness
Carol McHenry
Deborah Meade
Tom Meade
David Meldrum-Taylor
Nancy Melekian
Dave Messick
Laurel Miller
Tom Morey
Ernest Mosbaek
Jeri Moulder
Lori Nagel
Christine Neuhauser
Ingrid Nicol
Vivienne Ninness
Bela Nuss
Bernadine Oberst
Doris O’Leske
Jean Parry
Annie Parsons
Debora Petlow
Patty Phillips
Colleen Poulsen
Carol Prentice
Tom Reynolds
Patty Riley
Judy Robertson
Al Ronyecz
Richard Ross
Suzanne Rubin
Edward Savage
Evie Savage
Patty Schmidt
Leslie Schneiderman
Nancy Shutt
Michael Seabaugh
Katya Sheets
Duane Sikorski
Jodi Simpson
Kathy Snell
Jim Snelling
Chris Sobenes
Alicia Sorkin
Barbara Nagle Statler
Michael Steinfeld
Lynn Sturgeon
Donna Stovesand
Mike Suess
Jill Taylor
Mindy Tennen
Carol Terry
Janice Thomson
Kasia Thurlow
Susanne Tobey
Ali Todhunter
Lucia Torres
Mike Tully
David Tuohy-Mote
Marie Tuohy-Mote
John Vasi
Nancy Vasi
Susan Vaughn
Susan Venable
Bobby Veros
Steve Veros
Haylie Vestal
Cristi Walden
Ginette Watson
Shirley Waxman
Maddie Weicht
Connie Wernet
Jan Wesemann
Denise Williams
Sandi Wilson
Ernie Witham
Helen Wong
Stacey Wright
Crystal Wyatt
Lesley Cunningham
William M. Daugherty
Rachael Douglas
Derril Eichelberger
Paul Franz
Dorothy H. Gardner
David Gress
Anthony Grumbe
David M. Jones
Morgan Jones
John Margolis
Gilbert Mathews
Suzanne Mathews
Joseph Marek
Marty McDermut
Duke McPherson
Mimi Michaelis
Mari Mitchel
Alex Morse
Connie Pearcy
Jeffrey F. Romano
Stephen Schaible
Caroline R. Thompson
Bruce Tiffney
Mike Tully
Henk Van der Werff
Michael Viettone
Rick Vitelle
Cristi Walden
Tim Walsh
Peggy Wiley
Crystal Wyatt

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AND COMMITTEES
MEMBERS
Marc Appleton
Randy Baldwin
Dan Bifano
Robert Bett
Laura M. Bridley
Merryl Brown
Ron Caird
Jeff Chemnick
Geoff Crane
PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

The Plant Collections Committee

The Plant Collections Committee at Lotusland is one of our longest running and arguably most important volunteer Committees in the organization. Comprised of skilled career horticulturalists, botanists and professionals in the trades, the Committee provides professional expertise as requested by staff in implementing the strategic and master plans for development and care for Lotusland’s gardens, living collections and related policies. Members review and assist with proposed garden renovation projects, plant collection accessions, and conservation programs and projects. Several members have served for decades in this capacity, and the wisdom of the collective is evident by their prudent guidance and astute oversight of Lotusland’s collections.

We have heard from many visitors lately, “the gardens at Lotusland have never looked better!” and we attribute this success to the combination of the hands of our dedicated gardening staff paired with the keen direction and devotion of our volunteer Plant Collections Committee.

The Committee is chaired by Crystal Wyatt and members include Jeff Chemnick of Aloes in Wonderland, Randy Baldwin of San Marcos Growers, Duke McPherson, Arborist, Bruce Tiffney, Professor of Paleobotany and Biology, Emeritus at UC Santa Barbara, Mike Tully co-owner of Terra Sol Garden Center, David Gress, Retired Horticulturalist, Cristi Walden of Sea Crest Nursery, Henk Van der Werff, Head of Monographic Studies Department and Deputy Director of Research Emeritus at the Missouri Botanical Garden, Dan Bifano, and Rick Vitelle.

Some members, including Robert Bett of Plant Haven, also serve on a sub-committee in support of the annual Exceptional Plants Auction and Sale.

– Paul Mills, Curator of the Living Collections

TIMELINE

1988: Early Horticulture Committee comprised of staff
Steve Timbrook, Chris Enright, Mike Iven, John Le Fleur, Frank Fuji, Earl Nydam

1989: Building and Grounds Committee formed as an operational committee to guide decisions relating to structures and the landscape
Steve Timbrook, Chris Enright, Mike Iven, Carol Valentine, Anne Jones, Vernon Cheadle, Bruce Tiffney

2003: Lotusland Plant Collections Advisory Committee formed by Virginia Hayes
Steve Timbrook, Virginia Hayes, Bruce Tiffney, Randy Baldwin, Jeff Chemnick and Paul Mills

2004: Horticulture Committee reconvenes as an operational committee
Original members – Nancy Wood, Chair, Sandi Nicholson, Anne Jones, Meryl Brown, Ella Brittingham, Linda Gluck, Richard Ross, Bruce Tiffney, Mike Iven, Steve Timbrook, Virginia Hayes

2008: The Plant Collections Advisory and Horticulture Committees merge to become one – the Horticulture Committee

2020: Renamed Plant Collections Committee
STAFF APPRECIATION

Thanking Esau Ramirez for 25 Years of Service

Lotusland wishes Esau Ramirez, Grounds Superintendent, the best of luck as he embarks on a new adventure starting his own landscaping business. We are fortunate he will remain working with the Garden in a part-time capacity.

Jeff Chemnick, Lotusland Research Associate, hired him to work in his nursery in the mid-1990s. “It was clear from the very start that Esau was exceptionally skilled; gifted really. I knew Lotusland was looking for a gardener and reluctantly I gave up this jewel of a person because I knew he would be a perfect fit. Now Esau joins the ranks of retired but revered Lotusland Staff.”

Former longtime Director of Grounds, Mike Iven, hired and worked with Esau for 20 years. “Esau’s skills became evident early on. Lucky for Lotusland and especially for me, Esau went on to accept the superintendent position. We collaborated on every garden project, special event, and new garden installation. Our friendship grew as we discussed schedules, events, budgets, equipment, his family and, occasionally, the UCSB men’s soccer match. I learned a lot from Esau. I want to thank him for everything and I wish him all the best.”

Tyler Diehl, Lotusland’s Director of Grounds and Facilities, describes Esau as someone who “has always been here for me and Lotusland. He’s a patient teacher, an incredibly knowledgeable plants person, and a forward thinking problem solver. And above all, Esau is a firm protector of the Garden.”

Curator of the Living Collections, Paul Mills, added that, “I’ve always been impressed by Esau’s no fear, can-do attitude. I think back to the move of the Dunlap cactus collection and how without Esau it would have been so much more difficult, if not impossible.”

When asked about his long and amazing career at Lotusland, Esau says, “We took pride in all the work we have done and we have had a lot of fun along the way.”

All of us at Lotusland acknowledge Esau’s zeal, hard work and commitment.

20 YEARS GARDENING AT LOTUSLAND

Celebrating Tim Cordero

There is a proverb that says, “If you want to be happy your whole life long, become a gardener.” This is a truism for Tim Cordero and Lotusland is better for Tim’s calling to be practiced here.

Tim Cordero began his career at Lotusland in November of 2000 in the Aloe Garden. Tim then spent 14 years tending to the lotus and lilies in the Water Garden, becoming an expert on aquatic plants. He was instrumental in ensuring that our namesake plants thrived in the summer months. His Lotusland tenure also included keeping the Great Lawn well-groomed and he recently returned to managing the Fern Garden. Tyler Diehl, Director of Gardens and Facilities, praises Tim for his strong work ethic, vast range of experiences, and sound judgement. These talents make Tim an indispensable member of the team.

Tim describes how the Lotusland gardeners are like a big family — having spent decades working together. He describes Esau Ramirez as being like an older brother and his coworkers like relatives — “It’s a family vibe” Tim says. As it is for all the staff, his relationship with the Garden runs deep. While on vacation Tim finds himself concerned about how the plants are doing in his absence. He expresses a strong connection to Ganna Walska and how “she did her own thing and you can feel that energy in the Garden.”

Aside from being an accomplished horticulturist, Tim’s other great passion is music — he’s been a drummer for 17 years, including 12 years with a Raggae band called The Kicks. In normal years, you can catch their live performances up and down the central coast and we are fortunate to have them perform at LotusFest.

Tim reflected, “When I first started working here, I thought I’d stay for a year or two, twenty years later, I just can’t leave.” Lotusland wishes Tim a happy anniversary and is grateful for his contributions and dedication.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS HISTORY AS A PUBLIC GARDEN
Lotusland is allowed to remain open through the winter. As dictated by our Conditional Use Permit, the Garden must typically close from mid-November to mid-February, which happens to coincide with the peak flowering period of the myriad of aloes. This allowance, due to COVID-19, offers a unique opportunity to experience the iconic Aloe Garden as few have.

In the early 1970s, renowned plantsmen Bob Foster and Charlie Glass, who had been hired by Madame Ganna Walska, began renovating and redesigning a number of gardens on the property including the Aloe Garden. As part of the project Bob and Charlie donated their very significant Aloe collection, containing plants originating from some of the great explorers of the time including John Lavranos and Cynthia Giddy, many of which are still in the Garden.

The genus *Aloe* naturally occurs from South Africa to the Arabian Peninsula, including some Indian Ocean islands such as Madagascar. There are over 600 different taxa known to science and new species are constantly being discovered. The Aloe collection at Lotusland contains 169 different types and is one of the finest displays in a public garden outside of Africa. We constantly strive to acquire new plants for this important botanical collection. A recent acquisition, purchased using our Specimen Plant Fund, included some little known central African species from Tom Cole of Cold Spring Aloes, who has discovered and introduced a number of aloes while conducting humanitarian work in Africa. There are many rare and unusual aloes in the collection such as a white flowered form of *Aloe ferox* found by the aviary on the west side of the Garden.

As the days shorten, aloes are triggered to flower, erupting with an astounding variety of colors and shapes of inflorescences. From the individual racemes of *Aloe ‘Tingtinkie’*, a Cynthia Giddy hybrid, to the multi-branched *Aloe labworana* and candelabra shaped *Aloe marlothii*, aloes bring color and interest to the winter garden. In South Africa the tubular flowers are pollinated by sunbirds but in California gardens they are visited by their New World counterparts — hummingbirds. Keep an eye out for them flitting from plant to plant on your next visit.

To help the Garden grow its collections please consider supporting the Specimen Plant Fund. Please call 805.969.3767, ext. 105.

NEW GROUNDS SUPERVISORS
Hannah French and Junio Milanese

2021 brings changes and growth to Lotusland, and we are proud to announce that Hannah French and Junio Milanese have been promoted to Grounds Supervisor positions. Hannah has worked at Lotusland for over four years and has maintained the Australian, Rose, Topiary and Fern Gardens. In her new position she will supervise the maintenance of the Gardens east of the Main Drive. Junio is a five year Lotusland veteran who was most recently responsible for the oversight of the renovation of the Japanese Garden. He has also maintained the Cactus, Blue, and Succulent Gardens. In his new position he will maintain the Gardens west of the Main Drive and supervise half of the garden crew. Lotusland is fortunate to have these talented professionals on our team. Be sure to congratulate them when you see them in the Garden.
Long considered one of the preeminent landscape designers of this region’s golden age of gardens, Lockwood de Forest, Jr., worked for Ganna Walska during the early years of her residency at what she then called Tibetland. He was hired to landscape and refurbish the gardens of her Montecito estate and the property around the mountain lodge she had purchased north of Santa Barbara, named Penthouse of the Gods.

Wartime correspondence between client and landscape architect demonstrate a mutual regard and friendship between the two.

Sometime after de Forest’s death in 1949, his archive was given to UC Berkeley. In 2018, after many years of negotiations, this collection was transferred to the Architecture and Design Collection (ADC) at UCSB. With the archive now located locally, research revealed undated drawings done by de Forest for the family that commissioned the Mediterranean style house and its formal gardens. One drawing identified as "Entrance Court for Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Gavit" illustrates the courtyard in front of the house with its enclosing walls, trough fountain, and additional paving. Before the discovery of this image, the designer of the entrance court and fountain was unknown.

The Motorcourt design drawing shows a pre-existing area with random flagstone pavers and de Forest’s proposed solution of surrounding this area with broken ashlar pavers in a more linear style. Aside from eliminating the slight peak in the top center wall of the fountain, the courtyard project was built according to de Forest’s plan. Tiles on the fountain basin are similar to the tiles used on benches and fountains designed by George Washington Smith for the Gavit’s estate, while the delft tiles on the pink plaster walls and the back facing wall of the fountain were collected by Madame Walska and added during her years at the estate.

More research is necessary to understand the collaboration between de Forest and other local landscape architects and designers who contributed to the Garden during the Gavit era. Once the ADC is able to allow researchers back into its collections, it will be interesting to dive deeper into the de Forest material and learn about his early work at what would become Ganna Walska Lotusland.

Rose Thomas, Lotusland Research Associate
LOTUSLAND WELCOMES
New and Returning Trustees

CRYSTAL WYATT
Crystall became enthralled with Lotusland after going on a tour in 2005, which led to her becoming a docent. She has Co-Chaired the Lotusland Celebrates gala four times and served seven years on the Lotusland Board of Trustees (2012-2018). After completing Board service, Crystal remained involved at Lotusland as a member of the Governance Committee and recently on the Search Committee. Crystal is in her first year on the board of the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation and is Immediate Past President at the Santa Barbara Zoo. She is a longtime Santa Barbara resident and enjoys committing her talents to the benefit of nonprofits that serve the public good, especially those related to animals, health, and the environment. Crystal and her husband Cliff have been Lotusland Members and supporters since 2005. Her thoughtful partnership and nonprofit leadership are invaluable at Lotusland.

GEOFF CRANE
Geoff Crane is President of Giffin and Crane General Contractors, Inc. He was a Trustee of Lotusland from 2004 – 2011, and again from 2013-2019, during which time he served as Chair of the Facilities Committee and shared his expertise as a builder on countless facilities projects. Geoff also served on the Long Range Planning Committee and Nominations Committee. He has served on the Development Committee, and currently serves on the Buildings and Grounds and Governance Committees where he lends his experience and is generous with his professional resources. Geoff and his wife Kim have been Lotusland Members since 1995.

MERRYL F. BROWN
Merryl is the President and Creative Director of Merryl Brown Events based in Santa Barbara with a presence in Los Angeles and New York. She is a former international banker with American Express Bank and Bankers Trust in New York and held the position of Director of PR and Events at Saks Fifth Avenue Santa Barbara. Merryl served for two terms as a trustee of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. She is a Lifetime Honorary Trustee of Lotusland, given this distinction after her nine years of extraordinary service on the Board. She both created and produced Lotusland Celebrates for several years. Merryl is also a certified Master Gardener and has been a Lotusland Member since 1993. Merryl is a creative strategist and we are honored to have her back in an active Board role.

MARI MITCHEL
Mari formerly served as director of major gifts for Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and developed the hospital’s Board of Regents program. After graduating from Pitzer College, her work took her to Kenya, Uganda and South Africa, coordinating relief and development work and refugee resettlement efforts. She was an overseas program officer for Episcopal Relief and Development and has dedicated the past 16 years to family and philanthropic pursuits, including founding the Centennial Guild of Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Since moving to Santa Barbara in 2008, Mari has served on the board of Direct Relief, served on the 100 Committee of Girls Inc., and currently serves on the executive committee of the Cate School Parents Organization. Mari and her husband Hank are Lotusland Members and avid gardeners. Mari brings expertise and energy to her new Board seat.

LAURA M. BRIDLEY
Laura was appointed Planning Commissioner, 2nd District, Santa Barbara County, in April 2019, and in early 2020 was elected Chair of the Planning Commission. She is an experienced consultant working in land use and transportation planning as well as historic preservation and nonprofit administration. Laura has worked as a Contract Planner for the City of Goleta and County of Santa Barbara. She was the President of the Montecito Association for nine years and was the first Executive Director of Casa del Herrero. She grew up in Montecito and worked with Lotusland on our original Conditional Use Permit. Laura and her husband John have been Lotusland Members since 1993. Laura’s extensive knowledge of nonprofit management will help Lotusland in navigating its future.
Gifts for the Garden

Lotusland’s sustainability depends on the generosity of our community of supporters and the countless hours dedicated by our volunteers.

Charitable gifts support ecological sustainability, rare plant preservation, and elementary life sciences education as well as a sustainable and organic gardening program that is shared with botanic gardens, institutions, and garden lovers near and far.

Giving Opportunities:

Enrich the Garden – To make a gift to support Garden care, programs and equipment, please call Marily Lopez at 805.969.3767, ext. 105, or go online to www.lotusland.org/giftsforthegarden.

Become a Member – Membership support is vitally important to preserve and enhance this unique horticultural treasure for all to enjoy. Contact Diane Jeffers, Membership Coordinator at 805.969.3767, ext. 115.

Volunteer – Spend time in the Garden and make new friends! Become a Garden Attendant or work with our Horticultural Team. To learn more please contact Volunteer Manager, Kitty Thomassin at 805.969.3767, ext. 112.

Join The Lotus Society and invest in our future with a gift to Lotusland’s Endowment. Gifts of $10,000 or more qualify you for membership. For more information or to become a member, please call Rebecca Anderson 805.969.3767, ext. 104.

2020

BY THE NUMBERS

250 VOLUNTEERS

24,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS

1,850 MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS

30,000 GALLONS OF COMPOST TEA APPLIED

ZERO CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS APPLIED

25 – 40 CARS ALLOWED PER DAY

15,000 VISITS TO THE GARDEN PER YEAR (SB County limit)

27 YEARS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

10 GARDENERS

TOTAL AREA 37 ACRES

AREA OF COLLECTIONS 24 ACRES

AREA OF NURSERY 14,500 SQ. FT.

OVER 40,000 INDIVIDUAL PLANTS IN THE COLLECTIONS

215 PLANT FAMILIES,

3593 TAXA

TOTAL OF 163 TAXA THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION.

(IUCN Red List categories)

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Personal Portraits in the Iconic Gardens of Lotusland

Lotusland offers the quintessential backdrop for any of life’s special events. Engagements, family photos, personal portraits, and wedding photos are all enhanced by the beauty of the Garden. Contact Kerstin Horneman, Events Manager at 805.969.3767, ext. 130 or khorneman@lotusland.org to inquire and schedule.

Commercial and Fine Art Photography

Informal pictures and videos are allowed and encouraged in the Garden. Lotusland imagery is protected by copyright law. Commercial or Art Photography or sales of any Lotusland imagery requires permission, a contract, and a location release. For more information, please contact Lotusland 805.969.3767.
New Staff

DOUG JENZEN
Director of Member and Visitor Services

Making the leap from archaeologically excavating a Cecil B. DeMille movie set to working in an office designed by Reginald Johnson and George Washington Smith has been a natural transition for Doug Jenzen.

Doug grew up in Nipomo, completed an undergraduate degree at Cal State Channel Islands and graduate and teaching credential programs at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. After graduate school, he worked as Director of Educational Programs at the Dana Adobe where he’s credited for pinpointing the location where Dorothea Lange captured her famous “Migrant Mother” photograph. Thereafter, Doug spent nearly a decade as the Executive Director of the Dunes Center in Guadalupe. There he oversaw the excavation of the largest movie set built in 1923, environmental education programs for 50,000 elementary school children, and a complete remodel of the museum’s exhibits.

Doug is an author of local history books and has received many awards recognizing his work, including California State University Alumnus of the Year, Historic Preservationist of the Year from History Center SLO, Best Nonprofit Management and Governance Practices from Spokes for Nonprofits, the Environmental Protection and Sustainability award from SBCAN, and a Harvey Milk Leadership award. He is an active volunteer, serving on the board of the San Luis Obispo County Archaeological Society, the Programs Committees for both the California Association of Museums and Western Museums Association, holds a seat on the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission, and has advocated for funding the IMLS, NEH, and NEA in Washington DC.

When not working diligently in the museum field, Doug travels to experience Earth’s flora and fauna as much as possible. Lotusland excitedly welcomes Doug in his new capacity as an organizational leader.

PATRICIA SADEGHIAN
Member and Donor Relations Manager

Patricia was raised in Santa Barbara and has always had a passion for the natural sciences.

She completed degrees at UC Santa Barbara in Zoology and Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology. As an Invertebrate Biologist, she spent nearly twenty years working with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History where she curated collections, conducted research, and published on crabs, marine worms, and land snails. In addition to her research, she enjoys interacting with members and was very involved with education programs, donor relations, behind-the-scenes tours, and exhibits.

Patricia worked at UC Santa Barbara where she supported the University with fundraising for the ecological sciences, donor relations, student philanthropy, and major gift stewardship. She truly appreciated connecting with donors, and sharing how their support makes a difference to future generations.

Patricia’s first visit to Lotusland was nearly 25 years ago when she brought her mother, Mary, to the Garden for Mother’s Day. She felt an immediate connection. Mary became a long-time volunteer at the Garden Shop and Nursery. Patricia lives in Santa Barbara with her husband Tim and daughter Sophia. During her free time, you’ll find her in her garden (Euphorbia and Begonias are her favorites), surfing, exploring tide pools, and cooking.

WYATT HOYLE
Gardener

Wyatt Hoyle recently joined Lotusland’s garden staff and is overseeing the Australian Garden, Cypress Allée, and the Sycamore/Cold Springs perimeter. Wyatt previously worked at the La Sumida nursery for five years where he honed his plant care skills. Wyatt also studies environmental science at Santa Barbara City College. His passion for conservation, restoration, and ecology translates well into the methods used at Lotusland.

Wyatt says he “enjoys working with a dynamic team — it is such a beautiful place to come every morning and I have the weekends off for the first time in my life.” Wyatt says he enjoys learning about Lotusland’s many fascinating plants, it’s history and is able to meet interesting, plant-engaged people.
MEMBERSHIP
Meet Our Membership Department

“Let the beauty of what you love, be what you do” – Rumi

Members help Lotusland to share, preserve, and enhance our renowned collections, and promote education in botanical science. We are delighted to introduce you to our team. If you have questions regarding membership please contact us.

Doug Jenzen, Director of Member and Visitor Services (see page 13) is responsible for all things relating to the visitor experience. Please connect with him for ideas and issues relating to guest services, admission, the Garden Shop, and General Member questions. Doug can be reached at 805.969.3767, ext. 120, and djenzen@lotusland.org.

Diane Jeffers has been with Lotusland for more than a year and has moved into a new role as Member Services Coordinator. Diane engages all General level Members and visitors in collaboration with the Member and Visitor Services Department and the events team. She’s happy to answer your membership questions. Diane can be reached at 805.969.3767, ext. 115, and djeffers@lotusland.org.

Patricia Sadeghian, Member and Donor Relations Manager (see page 13) supports Members and Donors at the Garden Lover level. If you have any questions regarding your membership, philanthropy, benefits, or access to the Garden, please reach out to Patricia. She always likes to match a face to a name, so you may see her in the garden during your next visit. Patricia can be reached at 805.969.3767, ext. 125, and psadeghian@lotusland.org.

Our Membership offices are open Tuesday - Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Lessons from Lotusland: Virtual Lectures and Workshops

Learn more and register at www.lotusland.org/learn/lessonsfromlotusland

Circle of Life
Sustainable Horticulture
Learn about the philosophies, techniques, and materials employed at Lotusland for ecological balance and superior plant health.
Tuesday, January 19
6:00 to 7:00 PM
Corey Welles, Plant Healthcare Coordinator
Free with prior registration

Alluring Aloes: Lotusland’s Aloe Adventure
This showstopping winter-blooming garden includes a fascinating variety of over 160 species of Aloe. Hear about the genus Aloe and the creation of this iconic Lotusland collection.
Wednesday, February 3
6:00 to 7:00 PM
Paul Mills, Curator of the Living Collections and Tom Cole, Cold Spring Aloes
Free with prior registration

Kokedama: Hanging Gardens
Explore the Japanese art of Kokedama in a hands-on lesson and create your own artistic plant display.
Saturday, March 13
2:00 – 3:00 PM
Anna Bower, Assistant Curator and Kerstin Horneman, Events Manager
Free for Garden Lover Members; $10 General Members, $15 Non-Members

Picnic in Paradise
Saturday, March 20
Arrival times 1:15, 1:30, 1:45 PM

Saturday, April 3
Arrival times 9:15, 9:30, 9:45 AM and 1:15, 1:30, 1:45 AM

Enjoy a self-contained, socially distant yet intimate picnic on Lotusland’s Great Lawn.

Bring your picnic blanket, food and drinks (alcohol is allowed) and only gear you can carry to the Great Lawn. The Great Lawn provides plenty of shady spaces to spread out, relax, and unwind in the beauty of the Garden.

After your picnic, we encourage you to take time to roam the gardens. Face coverings are required when walking the gardens but may be removed when eating and drinking.

Space is limited, advance reservations required. To maintain social distancing, groups must be six or fewer and arrive in one vehicle. Visit Lotusland.org for dates or call 805.969.9990 for reservations.

Members $40 Adults, $20 Children age 3-17
Non-Members $60 Adults, $30 Children age 3-17, Free age 2 and Under

Love in Bloom
Sunday, February 14
Choose from:
Morning Walk arrival times at 9:15, 9:30, 9:45 AM
Afternoon Walk arrival times at 1:15, 1:30, 1:45 PM

Love—and beauty—are in full bloom when you experience Lotusland with your Sweetheart on Valentine’s Day. Take an intimate garden stroll through the magical landscape of Lotusland and bring a picnic to enjoy on the Great Lawn.

Special additions can be found at www.lotusland.org to make your day even more romantic and memorable.

Couples only.
Space is limited, advance reservations required, please call 805.969.9990.

$80 per couple for Members
$120 per couple for Non-Members
LOTUSLAND GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES DONORS
September, October, and November 2020

GRANTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS
ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE
Ms. Judy Cardinal

ARCHIVE TRANSLATION
Anonymous

COMMUNITY ACCESS SPONSOR
Judy & David Jones

GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT
GRoW @ Annenberg
Wendy & Eric Schmidt

INSECTARY GARDEN
Mr. Eric Nagelmann
in honor of Corey Welles
Nancy & John Vasi

MATCHING GIFTS PROGRAM
Your Cause For Boeing
directed by Arleen & Alfred Noreen

TROPICAL GARDEN
Mr. Eric Nagelmann
in honor of Jack Stevens, Cristi Walden, and Sea Crest Nursery

EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAMS
JUNIOR BOTANIST PROGRAM
Mark Livanec and El Camino Ventures
in honor of Lori Kraft Meschler
The Coeta and Donald Barker Foundation

OPEN PATHWAYS
Southern California Edison

PAVILION RENOVATION
Anonymous
Hania P. Tallmadge

PINK WALL REPAIRS & PAINTING
Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree

JAPANESE GARDEN RENOVATION
Anonymous
Gwen & Henry Baker

JAPANESE GARDEN ENDOGMNT
Nora McNeely Hurley and Michael Hurley & Manitou Fund

EXCEPTIONAL PLANTS AUCTION
Diane Dunhill, Diane’s Plants
Ron Caird, Por La Mar Nursery
Sandra Russell & Jim Foster
Jack & Charnee Stevenson, Seacrest Nursery
Eileen & David Tufenkian

LOTUSLAND CELEBRATES: BEYOND THE PINK WALL
Lisa & Christopher Lloyd
Suzanne & Gilbert Mathews
Mr. & Mrs. Garland Reiter

GIFTS FOR THE GARDEN
Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Anderson
Ann Jackson Family Foundation
directed by Mr. & Mrs. Palmer G. Jackson, Sr.,
Chana & James Jackson, and Susan & Palmer G. Jackson, Jr.
Ann Griffith Ash
Yvonne & David Bazinet
Geraldine & Jerry Bidwell
Nicole Biergeli & Aaron Laferriere
Daniel Bifano & Allan Brostrom
Mr. Keith Birkenfeld**
Loren Booth, Otis Booth Foundation
Kelly & Gary Bridge
in honor of Janice Sorenson
Mark Broomfield & Melissa Bator
Merryl F. Brown

Ms. Susan Burns & Mr. Jerry Hatchett
Webster Burns
Pat & Ron Caird
Janet Caminite
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Casey
Elizabeth & Joel Chapman
Stephanie & John Connaughton
Marissa & Stuart Corvin
in honor of Caroline Thompson
Sallie & Curt Coughlin, Watling Foundation
Sandra & Patrick Crotteau
Tom Dennis & Chela Weiler
Barbara Dixon
Ms. Lucy Doheny
Susan Dorrough & Tom Sloyan
in memory of Hallie Hayes
Tina & Greg Downs
Danielle Drewisch, Chicago Title & Escrow
Emily & Dan Engel
William Fandel
Kate & Michael Faust
John Fishpaw & David Alvarez
Hon. & Mrs. Paul G. Flynn
Elizabeth Fowler, G.A. Fowler Family Foundation
Priscilla & Jason Gaines
Ms. Debra Ann Galin
Dorothy & John Gardner
Mrs. Karen Garrolini
Hester Gill & Carrier Bester
Richard Giogiosa & Simon Jones
Dr. & Mrs. Leonard Grabowski
Sylvia Jane Grand
Ms. Karin Haeusler
Lisa & George Hagerman
Lily Hahn, The Lucky One Foundation
Carolyn Hanst
Laurie Hasencamp & Michael Lurey
Joan & Peter Hazell
Mrs. Lorna S. Hedges
William Hefner
Andrea & Ron Hein
in honor of Rachael Douglas
Antonie & Michael Heren
Christopher Hill
in honor of Eric Nagelmann
Holly Hoffer & Aleta Lepper
Ms. Patricia Jacquemin
Judy & David Jones
Jane Jorgensen
Mr. Dennis John Jurcak
Lois Kaplan
Pauline Kiernan & David Kirkland
M.A. Kruse
John La Puma & Josie Bahedry
in memory of Rita Putt
Victoria Lautman
Bambi & Chris Leonard
in honor of the dedicated staff, volunteers, and trustees
Susan & Robert Lieff
Phoebe & Harry Linden
Mr. Harlis Maggard
in memory of Jane Maggard Brooks
Katherine & Judd Malkin
Joseph Marek & John Bernatz
Lisa Skyheart & Michael Marshall
NEW GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS

We welcome new Garden Lover Members who joined in September, October, and November 2020

GUARDIAN
Jennifer Appenrodt & Chris Sewell

ADVOCATE
Amy Yoshida

GIFT MEMBERSHIP DONORS
Rhett Adams
Leasha Barry
Virginia Benson Wigle
Morris Berniard
Daniel Bifano & Allan Brostrom
Danielle Bourhis
Stacey Caballero
Pat & Ron Caird
Maryalice Cheney
Blaise Colt & Julie Neils
Anna May & Tim Feige

NEW GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS

IN-KIND DONATIONS
Merryl F. Brown
Pauli Carnes
Diane Galvan & Larry Disharoon
Caroline Green
Joanna Kerns
Suzanne & Gilbert Mathews

Mimi Michaelis
Alexandra & Charles Morse
Carol Prentice
Steve Hanson Landscaping
Hania P. Tallmadge
Ms. Cristi Walden

Heather Ferris
Dina Goldstein
Gabrielle Grace & Patrick Murray
Pamela Greenberg
Karen & Jaime Greenberg
Melissa & Josh Herwitt
Norma J. Hollowell
Daniel Hughes
Ms. Julie Irwin
Julyana Johnson
Jazmin & Giacomo Lampariello
Joseph Marek & John Bernatz
Deborah Merlo
Rebecca Metcalfe
Alana Ober & Tristan Fitzpatrick
Lisa O’Connell
Victoria K. Perkins
Judith Robertson
Kayvon Saless
Francesca Spinner

** Deceased

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Caroline Green
Joanna Kerns
Suzanne & Gilbert Mathews

Mimi Michaelis
Alexandra & Charles Morse
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Victoria K. Perkins
Judith Robertson
Kayvon Saless
Francesca Spinner

** Deceased
LOTUSLAND GARDEN SHOP
History of Ganna Walska Lotusland

Historical books about Lotusland are available in Lotusland’s Garden Shop and online at lotuslandshop.org. Members save 10% on all purchases.

_Ganna Walska: Portraits of an Era_ by Hania Tallmadge offers a rich visual survey of times gone by, along with personal insight into the life of an extraordinary personality. Through her niece’s remembrances and rarely seen images, Madame Ganna Walska’s story springs to life and reads like a Hollywood movie. 180 pages, hardcover, 190 photographs. $50

_Ganna Walska Lotusland: The Garden and its Creators_ This fabulous book tells the complete story and history of Lotusland. You’ll discover and understand the rich history of the property as far back as 1877 and the original Spanish land grant. Details about the early years of Madame Ganna Walska describe the fascinating life of an amazing woman and the story continues through her work creating one of the world’s most remarkable botanic gardens. Written by Sharon Crawford, 54 pages, soft cover. $18.95

LOTUSLAND GARDEN SHOP

GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS RENEWING OR INCREASING LEVEL OF SUPPORT
September, October, November 2020

GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS

STEWARD
Connie & John Pearcy

GUARDIAN
Anitra P. Sheen

CONSERVATOR
Perri Harcourt
Sheila & Rick Vitelle
Phyllis & Clifford Ruddle*

CULTIVATOR
Katherine Kims & Eric Ng
Gregg Wilson
Mr. Marc Appleton
Leslie & Philip Bernstein
Maureen & Edward Bousa
Mr. William Burke & Ms. NancyBell Coe
Ana & Robert Cook*
Stephanie & Paul Comstock,
Comstock Landscape Architecture
Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Crane
Lucy Doheny*
Mr. & Mrs. Ian Fisher
Connie Frank & Evan Thompson,
Connie Frank Foundation
Dorothy & John Gardner
Hilary Garland & Erin Borda*
Mrs. Karen Garrollo
Amy Gordon
Grandfolia, Rick & Brenda McDonald
Judy & David Jones
Leah & Bill Lloyd
Forbes H. Perkins & Miri Mara
Dr. Richard Ross
Nati & Michael Smith*

ADVOCATE
Brier & Kent Allebrand
Betsy Atwater & Timothy Eaton
Jeff Chemnick & Satie Airamé, Ph.D.
Jan D. Everote
Sintija Felder
Chana & James Jackson
Michael Libow
John Margolis
Barbara Nagle Statler & Gordon Statler
Theresa Strempke & Peter McMillan*
Heather & Trace Sturgeon*
Debora & Gary Petlow
Marcia Kay & Ronald Radelet
Dina & David Saalisi
Nancy & Nick Stagliano
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Thompson
Mrs. Evan Turpin
Cathy & Paolo Vedovi
Lien & Sherman Vincent
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Vuchinich
Linda & Steve Wegener

* Denotes Increased Support
Winter 2021

Lotusland events are open to non-members, so please tell your friends and neighbors.

**Tuesday, January 19**
Lessons from Lotusland: Circle of Life – Sustainable Horticulture
6:00 to 7:00 PM
See page 16

**Wednesday, February 3**
Lessons from Lotusland: Alluring Aloes
6:00 to 7:00 PM
See page 16

**Saturday, March 13**
Lessons from Lotusland: Kokedama – Hanging Gardens
6:00 to 7:00 PM
See page 16

**Sunday, February 14**
Love in Bloom
See page 16

**Saturday, March 20**
Picnic in Paradise
See page 16

**Saturday, April 3**
Picnic in Paradise
See page 16

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**Lotusland Winter/Spring Self-Guided Tour Schedule**

We are pleased that the County of Santa Barbara has temporarily permitted Lotusland to remain open this winter and to allow limited Sunday access.

In order to maintain social distancing, we are continuing with self-guided tours, timed tickets, staggered arrivals, limited visitor capacity, and strictly enforced mask policies.

Space is limited and advance reservations are required.

Call 805.969.9990 to check availability and to reserve your space.

**Winter/Spring Visitation Days**

January 15 – February 27     Thursday through Saturday
March 3 – April 29           Wednesday through Saturday

**Plus, the 3rd Sunday of each Month**

January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18

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**For Your Safety:**
Staggered Arrival Times for Self-Guided Tours
Including Members

Arrival times are 9:15 AM, 9:30 AM, 9:45 AM, 1:15 PM, 1:30 PM, and 1:45 PM. Garden visits last two hours.

Please call 805.969.9990 for reservations.