



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS ▯ VOLUME 23 NO. 4 ▯ FALL 2014

Birds of Lotusland

BY VIRGINIA HAYES

ONE OF THE CHARMS of a visit to Lotusland may go unnoticed by most guests, but its subtle effect greatly enriches experiencing the garden. Whether it is the slight movement out of the corner of your eye as a goldfinch flits from branch to branch or the melodic trill of a wren that provides the background music for your tour, the many avian residents at Lotusland enhance not only the visitor experience, but the overall health of the garden.

A recent compilation of all the birds ever seen at Lotusland shows a wonderfully diverse bird population. It ranges from the songbirds that twitter and tweet to the raptors that help in the ever-present battle with rodents. Amazingly, about 95% of birds eat insects for all or part of their lives. Even nectar-sipping hummingbirds snap up mosquitoes and other tiny insects to feed their young. Many birds catch their lunch on the fly and may have a particular preference for their food source: flycatchers do like flies (of all sorts), but also may catch and consume bees, wasps, beetles or grasshoppers. Perhaps the most often observed are the aerobatic black phoebes. These tiny birds perch wherever they can and swoop through the air to nab their meals of insects, gnats and other smaller prey.

Other birds forage in the foliage of trees and shrubs. Some, such as bushtits and warblers, snap up insects from the leaves. The crevices of tree bark also provide habitat for insects, and nut-hatches and titmice hop along the trunks with an eye to mining these veins of nutrition. Jays, sparrows and towhees are among those birds that hunt among the fallen leaves (and mulch) for a whole different set of arthropods.

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PHOTOS BY BOB CRAIG

A black phoebe is perched on a lotus pod in the water garden waiting to swoop in on its prey.

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Mission Statement

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.



A great blue heron in the Japanese garden patiently awaits its prey that is swimming in the pond.

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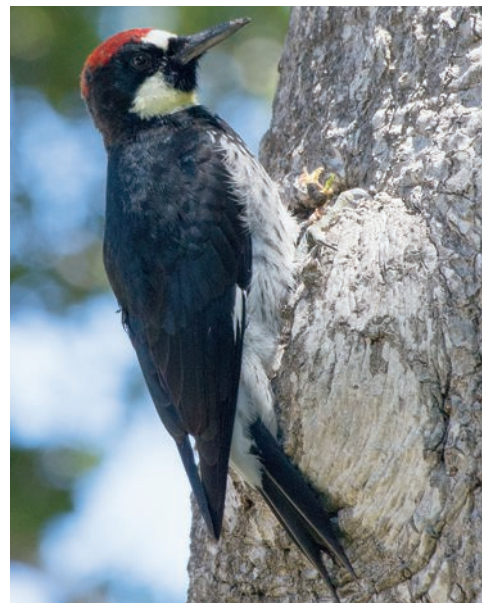
Water-loving birds such as herons also have a role at Lotusland. Their acumen at catching and consuming crawfish helps to keep this crustacean pest in check. The mallard ducks are probably eating lots of snails and other insects, although an explosion in their population can have a serious effect on the nutrient balance in the ponds. Most years, the myriad ducklings do not survive to maturity, so that balance can be maintained.

The other factor in providing good habitat for birds is a place to build their nests and raise their young. The diversity of trees, shrubs and other vegetable material for nesting is amazing. Hooded orioles find the palms and giant bird of paradise just to their liking. They weave elaborate hanging nests from the undersides of the leaves, providing a snug and dry place to raise their babies. Bushtits employ plant fibers as well as lichen to construct snug pouches suspended from a variety of low-hanging tree branches and shrubs. An inventive wren even used the hollow belly of the steel pelican statue near the swimming pool at Lotusland one year to raise her brood. Acorn woodpeckers have found hollows in the palm trunks to be ideal havens for their young. Hummingbirds find plenty of spider webs and bits of lichen to cement into their tiny nests, and crows stake out their nesting

territory in the many native oak trees. Phoebe and swallows dip up the mud from the water features to daub their nests under the eaves of the buildings. Owl boxes have enticed some nesting activity, but the tight fronds of several palm trees have been favorite owl homes over the years as well. The many tall trees at Lotusland also provide ideal nesting conditions for red-shouldered hawks, and the high-pitched calls of the young as they leave the nest are comical and encouraging.

All of this would not be happening if Lotusland had not committed to deleting chemical pesticides, fungicides and herbicides from our horticultural management practices. Bird populations in agricultural areas are in decline because of the effects of chemical pesticides. Even the supposedly less toxic neonicotinoids are now proving to have long-lasting toxicities for bees and birds.

At Lotusland beneficial insects are now encouraged to visit and stay in the garden. While our bird partners may eat some of them, they also eat many of the pest insects as well. Soil-dwelling arthropods are also a large part of the diet of many birds, so that our mulching and soil-building efforts that provide them with a healthy environment also ensure an ongoing source of nutrition for birds. Towhees are among the most vigorous ground scavengers. Neatly raked paths are soon littered with mulch and leaves from adjacent beds



An acorn woodpecker is storing acorns in the trunk of an oak tree near the aloe garden.



Feeding time at the Anna's hummingbird nest in a cactus by the main house.



A barn owl is perched in a palm tree next to the dracaena circle.

as they scuffle through the organic material to find the insects below. Crows eat just about anything, and when the dragon tree fruits are ripe they are ingested and deposited wherever the crows roost, meaning that

seedling dragon trees become a weedy species in places we don't want them to grow to maturity. The same is true for Canary Island date palms and probably several other plants that "volunteer" throughout the garden. Their removal is

a small price to pay for the satisfaction of knowing that the resident bird populations are healthy.

The Lotusland bird-centric exhibit **FLOCK** opens on February 28, 2015 in the Pavilion gallery and in the garden.

Director's Letter

GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND is a treasure that Madame Walska intended to share with all Santa Barbara citizens, but the restriction of visitors and students to a total of 20,000 annually, by our Santa Barbara County Conditional Use Permit, makes it difficult for us to fulfill Madame's dream. As Roger Ascham penned in 1545, "necessity is the inventor of goodness," and our commitment to share Lotusland with the entire Santa Barbara community inspired our creativity.

The invention of goodness is our Open Pathways program, in which we partner with select Santa Barbara organizations serving those citizens who are unable to visit Lotusland due to physical, social or economic disabilities. We effectively target segments of our community's population who are in the greatest need, and Open Pathways provides customized tours and programs for them, for free.

Fortunately, we get important help from the Santa Barbara Independent Living Resource Center, who annually trains our staff and docents in the

perspective of people with disabilities and how to comfortably and sensitively assist them so they have the most fulfilling tour of the gardens.

Our staff and docents now work with the Braille Institute of Santa Barbara to provide tours for the blind in gardens that are touch friendly and fragrance enhanced. Additional Open Pathways partnerships, serving thousands of citizens, are with Domestic Violence Solutions of Santa Barbara, Maravilla Senior Living Community, Friendship Manor, Veterans Home of CA, Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services of Santa Barbara County, Fellowship Club, Fighting Back Mentor Program, Los Prietos Boys Club, Girls Inc., United Cerebral Palsy/Work Inc., Mental Wellness Center of Santa Barbara, Phoenix of Santa Barbara, Jodi House, Noah's Anchorage Youth Crisis Shelter, El Patio Gardens Senior Community Apartments and Luis Oasis Senior Center in Orcutt, and we are adding more as I write.

Our deliberate approach to outreach and collaborations for Santa Barbara's



LEA ANNA DROWN

Gwen Stauffer

most under-served earned Lotusland funding for the program, as well as the Mayor of Santa Barbara's Award for Accessibility in 2013.

Access to Lotusland is only part of the gift. Through Open Pathways, Lotusland provides respite and tranquility, and inspires awe and hope, for some of the most under-served people in Santa Barbara. If you want to support or get involved with Open Pathways, please contact us.

With warmest regards,
Gwen L. Stauffer

LotusFest!



THE LOTUSES were blooming in a spectacular fashion in the water and Japanese gardens for our annual LotusFest! celebration. In addition to enjoying the beauty of Lotusland's legendary namesake flower, guests enjoyed a beautiful afternoon sampling premium wines and brews from some of the area's finest establishments. Delectable hors d'oeuvres were savored while mellow jazz performed by The Associates filled the garden.

Lotusland thanks these purveyors for making our afternoon both a lot of

fun and a tremendous success: Brander Vineyard, Brewhouse (Lotus Blossom Wheat Beer!), Carina Cellars, Daniel Gehrs Wines, Demetria Estate, Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co., Firestone Walker Brewing Co., Island Brewing Company, Jaffurs Wine Cellars, Kenneth Volk Vineyards, Labyrinth Winery, Lucas and Lewellen Vineyards, Lumen Wines, Municipal Winemakers, Riverbench Winery, Roblar Winery, Santa Barbara Winery, Telegraph Brewing Co., Toucan Wines and Whitcraft Winery. —Dorothy Shaner



LotusFest affords the unique opportunity to relax with a cool beverage and a savory snack on the Lotusland main lawn.



The Brewhouse serving a refreshing lotus blossom infused wheat beer.



Penny Bianchi and Elizabeth Kirkpatrick enjoying a delightful sunny July afternoon in the garden.



John Shelton, trumpeter for The Associates, entertaining the crowd with a soulful jazz performance.



Roblar Winery pouring numerous great-tasting wines from their collection.



Whitcraft Winery sharing their favorite varietals to the delight of the wine drinkers on hand.



Firestone Walker Brewing Company's Jim Shaner keeping thirst at bay with a sampling of beers.



Riverbench serving tastings of their remarkable wines to appreciative and happy guests.

COLLECTIONS NEWS

Begonias in the Fern Garden

WHEN BILL PAYLEN was hired by Madame Ganna Walska to design the fern garden, he had to look no further than local begonia grower and hybridizer Rudy Ziesenhenné for the majority of the begonias that would be used in the original design. Rudy had his nursery on his property next to the Santa Barbara County Bowl, which is now in the process of planning a begonia garden, in Rudy's honor—it was his wife's family who originally owned the land the bowl was built on in 1936. Lotusland was happy to be able to donate eight plants of one of his wonderful hybrids, *Begonia* 'Yanonalí,' for this project.

Although Rudy is no longer with us, many of his plants are, including a number of the original acquisitions such as *Begonia* 'Lotusland,' which was named by Rudy for Lotusland. Recent donations by Diane Dunhill, a Santa Barbara plant collector, have increased the number of begonias in Lotusland's collection that originally came from Rudy. Included in the most recent donation is his namesake plant, *Begonia* 'Rudy.' The story goes that Rudy



Begonia 'Rudy' in the fern garden.

created this hybrid in 1975, and before he could name it a customer named it for him. *Begonia* 'Rudy,' with its larger

silver-sheened maple-like leaves, now resides in the original part of Lotusland's fern garden.
—Paul Mills

Succulent Wreath Making Workshop

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

9:30 TO 11:30 AM



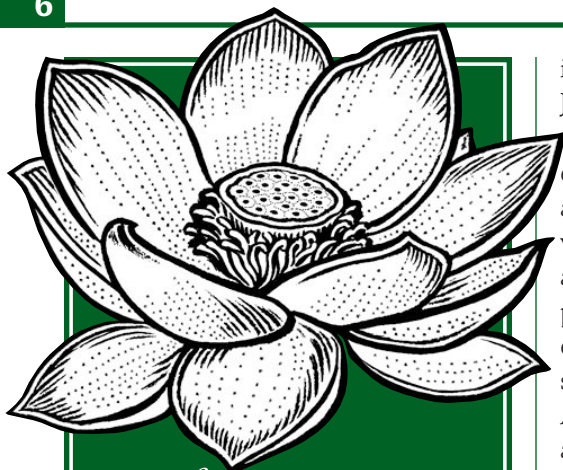
MAKE YOUR OWN LIVING WREATH! Join us for an informative and fun succulent wreath making session at Lotusland. This workshop, designed for beginners, leads you through the steps needed to build a beautiful living succulent wreath that can be used year-round with minimal care. All necessary materials to construct one 14-inch wreath are included in the workshop fee. This member-only event is limited to 15 adults. Members may bring a guest.

Tickets are \$75 for members and \$90 for members' guests. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Visitor Services at 805.969.9990.

Membership Corner

HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING

WITH THE HOLIDAYS just around the corner, giving the gift of free admission to Lotusland for a full year could be the perfect present! Your donation of \$75 for an Individual, \$125 for a Family level that includes two adults living in the same household, or \$250 for a Friend level membership that includes three adult guest admissions per year are all tax deductible. As a special offer, receive a copy of *Collections & Horticulture* by Virginia Hayes and Steven Timbrook for all first-time gifts to new members. Individual guest admission certificates are also available for \$45 each. For more information, please call 805.969.3767 and ask for Member Services.



The LOTUS SOCIETY

MEET OUR LOTUS SOCIETY DONORS

WE ADDED *THE LOTUS SOCIETY* as a beneficiary to our IRA because we didn't have to go to the expense of amending our will and it was easy," says Sandra Russell and Jim Foster. This dynamic couple describes Lotusland as "a place for people to experience the wonders of the plant world in a unique setting...and a place to connect people to the natural world and be able to see plants from places

in the world they may never visit." Jim says that Lotusland has great value in the community because "it is an experience as much as a place and both are valuable attributes...visitors leave with a sense of awe which is not always a common feeling for a lot of public venues. It is an imaginative example of sustainability and has state-of-the-art gardening practices." And Sandra thinks that it "serves as an inspiration for gardens throughout our community and brings beauty to our community, which makes it a more enjoyable place to live!"

Sandra, with a background in plant genetic engineering, and Jim, who spent 30 years involved in crop protection research, are both passionate about preserving Lotusland. She says, "We wanted to show our support and dedication to preserving Lotusland and its mission of education and horticultural excellence. In many instances, it seems a gift is just a drop in the bucket, but with Lotusland, your gift can make a difference." Jim, a longtime docent at the garden, says that he "hopes the gardens of Lotusland will continue to thrive and provide the public with a truly inspirational experience." Sandra, who manages the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, hopes that

their gift to the endowment "can help to sustain and build the garden to educate and inspire...as well as to motivate women to believe that they can build and create wonderful things worth preserving." Something both Sandra and Jim completely agree upon is that "we really appreciate how careful Lotusland is with their finances—we feel confident that our gift is in good hands."

—Anne Dewey



NEW MEMBER

THANK YOU for your unbridled commitment to Lotusland in so many fashions and for so generously joining *The Lotus Society*.

Anne and Bill Dewey

Members of *The Lotus Society* have each made a gift or bequest of \$10,000 or more to Lotusland's Endowment. Names of *The Lotus Society* members are engraved on the Wall of Honor, which is located at the Visitor Center at the end of the Australian tea tree arbor.

To learn more about *The Lotus Society*, please call Anne Dewey, Lotusland's Director of Development, at 805.969.3767, extension 105.



Sandra Russell and Jim Foster, Lotus Society donors



Lotus Society members have their names inscribed on the Wall of Honor near the visitor's center.

Lotusland Celebrates

ONCE UPON A TIME

THE 500 GUESTS celebrated the mystery and magic of fairytales at this sold-out event. The party was a marvelous success, the guests had a wonderful time, and the event raised much-needed funds to help support the garden.

We appreciate the generous support of our major Sponsors—Felix Cohen & Family, Larry & Patricia Durham, Duo Catering and Events, I.D.O. Events, Inc., Connie & John Percy, Eileen & Alex Rasmussen, Leslie Ridley-Tree, Silverhorn Jewelers and Christopher J. Toomey—and our Sustainers—Marc Appleton & Joanna Kearns and Gary & Susanne Tobey, Phoebe Brunner, Arthur R. Gaudi, Rich & Luci Janssen, Kind World Foundation and Edward & Judy Shea.

Creative Committee Co-chairs Jennie Grube and Eileen Rasmussen, along with their clever and hard-working committee members—Nydia Cardot, Jill Chase, Belle Hahn Cohen, Elizabeth Colling, Lisa Couvillion, Anne Dewey, Renee Gignac, Tamara Jensen, Felicity Larmour, Dawn Lafitte, Jill Levinson, Jillian Muller, Sandi Nicholson, Eliza Osborne, Debby Peterson, Lizzie Peus, Laura Shelburne, Daryl Stegall, Courtney Tentler, Kim Thomas, Caroline Thompson, Crystal Wyatt and Yasmine Zodeh—did a wonderful job of creating a uniquely enchanted event.

Guests were entranced as they followed the whimsical path through the garden with surprises at every turn. Princess Lylah and her frog prince greeted guests at the wishing well; Hansel and Gretel shared the candy from the gingerbread house they found in the forest; Jack climbed up his beanstalk; Little Red Riding Hood narrowly escaped the wolf; Rapunzel let down her hair from high above the lawn in her lonely turret (her prince was in attendance, as well, on his white horse); Rumpelstiltskin mysteriously turned straw into gold; Snow White longed for her prince and her evil stepmother offered poison apples while the Seven Dwarves frolicked in the Theatre garden, much to the guests' amazement.

Duo Catering and Events created the delectable hors d'oeuvres and elegant seated dinner (with a few fun twists in honor of the theme), and Babcock Winery generously donated the wines for the evening including their amazing 2012 "Top Cream" Chardonnay and 2012 "Je Ne Sais Quoi" Pinot Noir.

After dinner, Executive Director Gwen Stauffer regaled the crowd with a Lotusland-inspired fairytale and thanked our generous donors and clever event committee, and Andrea Fiuczynski, Chairman of Sotheby's West Coast, brought six one-of-a-kind items to the auction block. The auction items

included a private dinner for 10 in the Lotusland gardens catered by Chef Robbie Wilson of Mattei's Tavern; a specially commissioned painting by local artist Phoebe Brunner, *Cactus Dance: Lotusland Re-Imagined*, beautifully framed by Art Resources Custom Picture Framing of Santa Barbara; the adoption of your favorite Lotusland garden for one year, including a cocktail party for 40 in "your garden" catered by Elizabeth Colling and Julie Robles; a bewitching pair of diamond and sapphire earrings handcrafted for Lotusland by Silverhorn Jewelers; and a 7-night trip for two to Paris, including a unique behind-the-scenes visit of Sotheby's Paris and a Sponsor membership to American Friends Musee d'Orsay. The auction culminated with a spectacular hand-carved marble replica of the Lotusland wishing well created by local sculptors Blake Rankin and Donald Davis with ironwork by Raul Flores of Art in Iron.

Following the live auction, we were honored to hear from Carol Beamer—a former elementary school science teacher and current docent with Lotusland's Fourth Grade Outreach Program—and students Jasper and Zinzan Kyle, who recently completed the 4th grade. They did a terrific job of sharing their enthusiasm and their experience with Lotusland, and the audience responded by donating over \$25,000 to help fund this important community program.

As guests departed, they were serenaded by the beautiful Blue Fairy and received yummy gingerbread cookies, provided by Jeannine's Bakery, from Hansel and Gretel's witch. Maybe she had ulterior motives?

Lotusland Celebrates continues to grow each year, and this year our wishes for a "happily ever after" came true. *Once Upon a Time* was the most successful fundraiser in Lotusland's history! We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to all of the following generous supporters of the event.

—Courtney Tentler
Continued on page 8



ROE ANNE WHITE

The talented and energetic event committee dedicated innumerable hours to ensure that this year's Lotusland Celebrates was the most successful fundraiser in our history.



Creative Committee Co-chairs Jennie Grube and Eileen Rasmussen share a moment of calm on the main lawn.



The Big Bad Wolf and Little Red Riding Hood offer friendly greetings to guests in the bromeliad garden.



Irina and Stefan Hearst became the proud owners of the hand-carved marble replica of Lotusland's wishing well at the live auction.

Continued from page 7

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in honor of our son Felix, who has brought the most magic into our lives

PHOTOS BY NELL CAMPBELL AND ROE ANNE WHITE



The Big Bad Wolf did his best to debunk his bad-boy image with Trustees Marc Appleton and Susanne Tobey.



Chris Toomey and his guests enjoying the lively and spirited entertainment during a stroll through the garden.



The Seven Dwarves surprised and amused guests with true-to-character humor and mischief.



Eileen Rasmussen generously sponsored Prince Charming and his valiant horse in honor of her husband, Alex.



Lily Hahn, Belle Hahn Cohen and Alice Richardson pause for a moment on the main drive to savor the fantasy on the path toward the party.



Prior to cooking Hansel and Gretel, the Witch entices new victims with sweet treats as guests head home after another delightful Lotusland Celebrates.

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delighted guests with their chief in the theater garden.



Tom Rollerson, Hiriko Benko, Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree and Larry Larson are all smiles as the enchanting evening unfolds.



Sam and Yasmine Zodeh, sponsors of the Wicked Witch, decide to pass on the poison apples.

Horticultural Happenings

SUSTAINABLE PLANT HEALTH CARE INTERNSHIP

In the work is the knowledge. If you want to learn about this place, you have to take care of this place, and then it will reveal itself to you.
—Anonymous

SINCE 1985, Lotusland has provided a summer internship to one or more students from an accredited college-level horticultural program. As Lotusland's horticultural program has evolved over the years, so has the focus of the summer internship. Students now learn the philosophy and get hands-on experience with the systems management cultural program employed in the garden. They see first-hand and participate in the regular modifications to maintenance practices based on changing conditions in the garden. This past summer, Jenny Kuri, a student at Niagara Parks School of Horticulture (NPSH) in Niagara Falls, Ontario, worked with Corey Welles, Plant Health Care Coordinator, and all of the grounds and curatorial staff to care for and maintain Lotusland's gardens.

Each year, one student is selected from numerous applicants to participate in the program. Over the years, students from Cal Poly SLO, UC Davis and NPSH have participated, as well as students from UCSB, Cornell, North Carolina State, Montana State, Texas A&M, Penn State, University of Oregon, University of Delaware, Humboldt State, Williams College and others. Many of our interns now work in the "Green" industry. One former intern is now the director of a botanical garden and another is the vice president of horticulture and facilities at a major U.S. botanical garden. Several former interns started their own landscape businesses, one is a golf course superintendent, one a designer/urban planner/horticulturist with a large landscape architectural firm in New York City, another is the special project manager at The Huntington Botanical Gardens and one previous intern is the owner of Terra Sol Garden Center in Santa Barbara.

Working with these students is always an enjoyable experience and

tracking their successful career paths is most rewarding. We are very grateful to the John Percival and Mary C. Jefferson Endowment Fund, Mr. Arthur Gaudi, Trustee, for their generous support of this long-standing Lotusland educational program.
—Mike Iven

JENNY KURI

COMING FROM the land of water in Niagara Falls, Canada, I didn't know what to expect with a three-year drought ahead of me. What is that like, I wondered, and am I going to have to ration my drinking water and be parched for a whole summer? How does an exotic garden survive a drought? Of course, they wouldn't let their rare specimen collection go to the wayside for all of humanity's sake! These are the questions that entered my psyche before entering the gates of Ganna Walska Lotusland.

Other expectations I had were of a team of thirteen gruff men who would humor the idea of working alongside a female, but reality quickly revealed itself to be the opposite. The garden staff is a group of caring souls, who gladly took me on as their apprentice. They instantly made me feel at home, and I am forever grateful.

After speaking with Corey over the phone, I knew this would be a good fit. I have been able to put theory into practice and really see the biological world at work. Every day I felt more alive knowing I was part of the ecological system I would see under a microscope. Samples were regularly checked to monitor the status of our compost piles and assure proper tea production. The benefits of all of this are seen in the garden, especially when looking at the roses. The duration of their bloom is a testament to proper plant health and understanding of the disease cycles and our preventative measures.

We also were taking care of our larger organisms in the ecological network, the birds and bees and everything in between. The insectaries are such a beautiful example of how natural lands and humans can co-exist by creating habitat for beneficial insects that help keep our systems in balance.



COREY WELLES

Jenny Kuri gained valuable hands-on experience during her summer internship at Lotusland.

Working in a drought has been the most interesting lesson. The same question always surfaces: which plants get the water? If you had to choose between an insectary and a rare collection of cycads, which would you water first? Knowing your plants and how far you can take them without water is tricky. I learned an important lesson with our native trees in that they don't wish to be pruned when they are under stress even if they don't appear to be.

Apart from the scientific side of horticulture, I have a true passion for the arts. Before coming to Lotusland, I was in search of the most theatrical, exuberant garden I could find. A garden that wasn't afraid of taking chances and playing with space, colour and conceptual themes. On arrival, I knew THIS IS IT!

I was so pleased to have connected with a vision that was close to my own of what can be done in a space. Although I have yet to create my own garden to my visions, I am very inspired to know that it can be done.

I am so thankful that I have been able to get to know this garden on a personal level by handling its earth, foliage and debris. I am thankful for Corey's enthusiasm in every topic imaginable. I would like to thank the John Percival and Mary C. Jefferson Endowment Fund for providing me with such a unique and unforgettable opportunity.

Thank you to all the staff, volunteers and everyone I met for allowing me to work alongside you, giving me more of your time than I could have ever expected.

Jazz in the Garden

ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, more than 100 guests gathered on the main lawn for a very special performance by singer-songwriter Meklit Hadero and her three-piece band. Her unique style—a mix of jazz, folk and East African influences—was a perfect complement to the lush garden surroundings in the late afternoon light. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity for a casual picnic on the lawn, and the audience was enraptured by Meklit's soulful performance.

The performance received rave reviews (and a standing ovation). Members have asked for more music programs in the garden. We agree! And we have some fun things in the works for next year.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS!

Trumpet Level: Connie and John Percy

Guitar Level: Joyce & Roland Bryan, Nancy & Michael Gifford, Jerrold & Patricia Hauptman, and Katrina & Robert Woolley

Wine Sponsor: Santa Barbara Winery



Gwen Stauffer welcomes the dinner guests and thanks everyone for helping to make this very special dinner in the garden possible.



Gretchen and Robert Lief, with Hania Puacz Tallmadge, enjoying a glass of rosé on the geranium terrace.



David and Judy Jones with Ted and Colleen Friedel enjoying the garden prior to their extraordinary meal.

Summer Bounty A LOTUSLAND FOOD & WINE FÊTE

THE BEAUTIFUL evening light and mild weather of Summer Solstice created the ideal ambiance for the second in a series of special events exclusively for Lotus Keeper level members.

Chef Ron True of Arlington Tavern prepared an extraordinary menu for the occasion with an emphasis on local fresh-from-the-farm ingredients (including some items from the Lotusland orchards). Everything on the menu was delicious, but the highlight of the evening was the final course—a lemon pudding cake served with a Lotusland fruit compote. Wines for the evening were provided, and expertly paired with the menu, by **Sommelier Dane Campbell**, Wine Education Manager at Zaca Mesa Winery.

An extra thank you goes to Margaret Joan Florals, who beautifully decorated the intimate farm-style table.

Not a Lotus Keeper level member? Call Member Services at 805.969.3767, extension 120 or 115, to find out more about Lotus Keeper benefits and special opportunities.

Lotusland Trip to Historic Annenberg Estate

JOIN US FOR a 3-day and 2-night journey to Palm Springs, including a tour of Sunnylands, from Monday February 2 to Wednesday, February 4.

Sunnylands is the 200-acre estate that was the West Coast home of Ambassador and Mrs. Walter H. Annenberg. Completed in 1966, Sunnylands was designed by architect A. Quincy Jones with interiors by William Haines and Ted Graber. The 25,000-square-foot midcentury modern house is located on landscaped grounds that include a private golf course, tennis court, swimming pool and 11 fishing lakes. The Annenbergs welcomed to Sunnylands seven United States presidents, British royalty, international political figures, and cultural and entertainment legends.

Sunnylands Center & Gardens features information, tours and programs on the Annenbergs, their role in American history, the architecture of the historic house, and their art collection. The gardens are home to a variety of arid landscape plants.

For trip updates and information, please contact Courtney Tentler at 805.969.3767, extension 116, or by email at ctentler@lotusland.org.

Thank You to Our

CORPORATE GARDEN STEWARD

Ontraport

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Belle & Daniel Cohen
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Ms. Melanie Trent



Sunnylands, the historic house designed by Southern California architect A. Quincy Jones.

NED REDWAY

Help Make Lotusland's Wishes Come True

WISHING WELL REPAIRS

LOTUSLAND'S HISTORIC Wishing Well dates back more than 80 years to the Gavit era and the garden designer Peter Reidel who installed the well in the early 1930s. Repairs are needed to improve the well's appearance and ensure its longevity. Blake Rankin, one of the artists who helped create the replica for *Lotusland Celebrates*, has developed a repair plan to preserve and protect this important piece of Lotusland history. The cost for the repairs is \$2,100.



GOLF CART FOR THE GARDEN SHOP

THE LOGISTICS of restocking inventory from distant storage to the garden shop has long been both labor intensive and time consuming. To facilitate a more efficient process, we are requesting your help in securing a reconditioned 2011 Club Car electric golf cart for shop staff. The Garden Shop is a vital source of revenue for Lotusland, and this investment will help the staff better serve our members and guests. The price is \$3,758.



TO DONATE FUNDS for these items, please call Anne Dewey, Lotusland's Director of Development, at 805.969.3767, extension 105, or email her at adewey@lotusland.org. Thank you so much to our incredible members who have helped us with our Wish List items—it makes such a big difference in our day-to-day operations, and we are very grateful.



Herb Aldwinckle

Volunteer Profile: Herb Aldwinckle

APPLES AND ORANGES

Growing up on a farm in England, Herb developed an enduring appreciation for plants. He studied botany at Cambridge and London universities and did postdoctoral research in California. He became a professor at Cornell in 1970, working on fruit trees, primarily apples and oranges. Part of Herb's work involved plant expeditions to the four corners of the world, including Turkey, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Sichuan China, France, Greece and Italy (France is their favorite destination). Herb is currently an Emeritus Professor at Cornell concentrating on Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology.

Herb and Bernadine saw an article about Lotusland and first visited in the spring of 2009. They were instantly enthralled and decided to become more involved. Herb volunteers as a docent and also enjoys time in the garden pruning in the orchard. In addition,

Herb and Bernadine are proud members of *The Lotus Society*. The Japanese garden is Herb's favorite not only because of the diversity of plants and trees, but also because it gives him a sense of connection with Ganna Walska. Lotusland has anchored Herb and Bernadine in the Santa Barbara community and introduced them to many fascinating people.

Herb's expertise landed him in the 2009 PBS documentary "The Botany of Desire" that explored the relationships of humans and the plant world and specifically to his favorite topic "Apples" and other fruits. Herb and his team have developed a series of new apple rootstocks that will help growers avoid diseases and pests that threaten these valuable fruit trees. He knows that their research will have a beneficial impact on the U.S. apple industry—and maybe someday Lotusland's apple trees?

—Kitty Thomassin

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

LOTUSLAND SAYS THANK YOU

ON MONDAY, JUNE 16, Executive Director Gwen Stauffer welcomed Lotusland volunteers and thanked them for their hard work and dedication. Other staff members joined Gwen on the theatre garden stage to offer thanks and recognition to all those gathered for this celebration. In 2013, 268 volunteers contributed an amazing 15,534 hours to Lotusland! More than half of our volunteers are docents who lead both regular public tours and fourth grade Outreach tours for children from throughout Santa Barbara County. Other volunteers help maintain the grounds, staff the Garden Shop, help with greenhouse propagation activities, assist with a variety of administrative projects, work at special events and assist us with our library and archives.

Lotusland staff held a picnic in the theatre garden to honor our valuable members of the Lotusland team and to thank them for their service to the garden. The picnic always falls near Madame Ganna Walska's birthday, June

24, so marking her birthday is a part of the celebration. Long-time docent Helene Mussbach and her associate, Howard Howe, entertained guests with lively accordion music.

An absolute highlight of the annual picnic is the drawing for a dozen Lotusland plants specially potted for

this event by Assistant Curator Paul Mills. Guests enjoyed a delicious catered buffet luncheon followed by a special dessert—three incredible cakes decorated with edible portraits of Madame Walska and lotuses.

Thank you so much to all of our wonderful volunteers!



Lotusland volunteers Cristi Walden, Christine Fancher and Arlene Belmontes enjoy the afternoon's activities.

Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2014

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JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2014

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JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2014

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WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2014

LOTUS KEEPERS

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Emy Yeazell

Our Membership Manager, Bambi Leonard, makes every effort to ensure that donor information is correct. If you find an error or omission, please contact her at 805.969.3767, ext. 120 or bleonard@lotusland.org.



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Fall 2014 and Winter 2015 Member Events

MANY LOTUSLAND EVENTS are open to nonmembers,
so please let your friends and neighbors know about the great activities we offer.

Thursday, October 9

Succulent Wreath Making Workshop

9:30 TO 11:30 AM

See details page 5. Please call
805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, November 15

Last day of regular tours before the
garden is closed until Wednesday,
February 18, 2015.

Monday, February 2 to Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Trip to Annenberg Estate

Three-day, two-night trip to
Palm Springs including a tour of
Sunnylands. See page 12 for details.
Contact Courtney Tentler at
805.969.3767, extension 116.

Tours

Tours are offered at 10:00 AM
and 1:30 PM, Wednesday through
Saturday. Family Tours, available for
groups with children under age 10,
are child and parent friendly. They
are separate from regular adult
tours. Please call 805.969.9990
for reservations.