



# LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS VOLUME 24 NO. 2 SPRING 2015

## Japanese Garden Renovation Project

BY GWEN STAUFFER AND VIRGINIA HAYES

SANTA BARBARA had been “a delightful little rural community” prior to 1890, states Victoria Padilla in *Southern California Gardens* (1961), but by then “had definitely become a floral-conscious community, eager to raise... the lesser known trees, shrubs, and palms. As the infrastructure of roads, water delivery systems and eventually electricity were implemented, estates with more refined gardens were built.” A few of them followed a national trend to include Japanese-style gardens—a fashion that spread rapidly after Japan, isolated for several centuries from foreigners, decided to show the world how far Japan had come by creating a grand display at Philadelphia’s 1876 Centennial Exposition. Millions of visitors to the Japanese pavilion, bazaar and gardens were captivated by the simple elegance of the Japanese arts and architecture at a time when American fashion was “smothered in the gravy of Victorian taste.” Japan’s exhibit at the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago continued to broaden American enchantment with all things Japanese.

There was a period in the pre-World War II history of estate building in Santa Barbara when many private gardens with Japanese elements were created, including Mrs. John J. Mitchell’s El Mirador, and The Knight and Brundage Estates, but very few of these remain in Santa Barbara today. The pre-World War II Storrier-Stearns garden in Pasadena, restored in 2010, was designed and executed by Kunzichii Fujii, the father of Frank Fujii who worked with Madame Walska to build her Japanese garden.

The trend of building Japanese gardens in the United States hit a decisive low when Pearl Harbor was bombed and, in a display of patriotism, most Japanese gardens in the United States were

*Continued on page 2*



Bright new leaves of an ornamental Japanese maple frame the view in the Japanese garden.

PHOTOS BY BOB CRAIG

### IN THIS ISSUE

Japanese Garden Renovation Project	1	Solstice Twilight Tour	11
Director’s Letter	4	Summer Bounty: A Lotusland Food and Wine Fête	11
<i>FLOCK: Birds on the Brink</i>	4	Annual Meeting	12
<i>FLOCK</i> Events	5	<i>Recapping the Highlights of 2014</i>	
Collections News	6	<i>FLOCK</i> Premiere Opening	12
<i>Erythrina</i>		Lotusland Celebrates	12
Bouquet of the Year	6	<i>Passage to India</i>	
Exceptional Plants: Auction and Sale	6	Lotusland Celebrates Spectacular	12
Horticultural Happenings	7	One-of-a-Kind Auction Items	
Members’ Family Day	8	<i>The Lotus Society</i>	13
<i>Birds in Paradise</i>		Help Make Lotusland’s Wishes	13
LotusFest!	10	Come True	
Cacti and Cocktails	11	Thank You to Our Corporate Steward,	13
Behind the Scenes Tour	11	Garden Stewards and Garden Guardians	

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JERRY HARPUR

*Three of Madame Walska's many Japanese-style lanterns at the edge of the pond.*

*Continued from page 1*

demolished. After the war, the influence of Japanese sensibilities on American design resumed and a new set of elite Americans built new Japanese gardens.

The Japanese garden at Lotusland, created in the late 1960s, is the only remaining post-World War II Japanese Garden that is open to the public on the California central coast between Los Angeles and the Bay area. According to Ken Brown in *Japanese-Style Gardens of the Pacific West Coast* (1999), "Madame Ganna Walska pursued a unique vision on her estate Lotusland. Although Walska...had never been to Japan, the popularity of Japanese-style gardens among such friends as Barbara Hutton and the exotic associations of the genre likely fueled her desire for one." Brown also feels that "the Lotusland Japanese garden...is very much I think about the local site, lanterns mainly from the area, and Madame Walska's love of a variety of botanical species. ...these are the qualities that distinguish it from the mainstream."

While it is true that very few "Japanese" gardens in America actually follow the strict tenets of Japanese garden design, and, even of those that do, it is argued that only gardens in Japan are truly "authentic." This does not diminish the importance of the Japanese gardens that exist in the U.S., particularly those built during the Golden Age of estate building in America and again after World War II. These conceptual Japanese gardens, or Japanese-style gardens, are important period pieces in the history of American gardens and exemplify the incorporation

of a Japanese or Asian aesthetic into American gardens at significant periods in the history of American garden design.

There are several layers of history represented in Lotusland's Japanese garden. In the late 1880s, R. Kinton Stevens constructed a reservoir in what had been a clay quarry to collect rain-water for irrigation. After Stevens' death in 1896, the level of water was allowed to recede. The Gavit family (c. 1918 to 1938) built paths around the lowered pond and used it for recreation.

The pond was already densely filled with Asian lotuses planted by Stevens when Madame Walska purchased the property. She conceived of a Japanese-style garden around the pond, and her scrapbooks with Japanese-themed clip-pings date from 1964 through 1972. During that time, she commissioned plans from several architects and although the plans were never implemented as drawn, Madame Walska may have incorporated some of the elements into the planted garden. She hired stone mason Ozzie Da Ros and aesthetic pruner Frank Fujii to purchase and install stones, lanterns and plants. Many of the lanterns came from other Japanese gardens that were being dismantled by the owners of private estates in Santa Barbara.

The garden continued to evolve over several years including the addition of an azalea bed, designed by her garden superintendent Charles Glass. He also enhanced the adjacent "bamboo pond," adding a waterfall and a stone lantern that was moved from another location in the garden.

Following Madame Walska's death in 1984, the Board of Trustees hired Koichi Kawana, a lecturer at UCLA who specialized in Japanese garden design, to aid in refreshing the Japanese garden. Two significant results from Kawana's recommendations were the installation of a Shinto-style shrine within a new grove of conifers, as well as a free-standing pergola planted with wisteria vines and low benches on a high point of the garden's perimeter. Large black pebbles were added to define the "beach" next to the koi pond.

One underlying influence throughout the creation of the Japanese garden from 1968 until 2007 was the vision that Frank Fujii had to make a harmonious garden of appropriate plants, stones, ornaments and other enhancements to

## 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 flowering cherry tree brings spring to life along the main path.*



*The view from the pergola designed by Koichi Kawana.*

the garden. Frank Fujii guided the aesthetic of the garden even during Madame Walska's lifetime, under the influence of the Lotusland Board with Dr. Kawana's input, and long after. Frank Fujii worked the garden well into his 80s, but by the time he retired in 2007, the complete vision he and Madame Walska shared for the garden had yet to be realized. Before Mr. Fujii left Lotusland, he recorded aspects of his and Madame Walska's long-term vision for continued aesthetic modifications in the garden so that one day the garden could be completed.

After three years of intense study of the complex layers of the Japanese garden, we are now considering several elements that need renovation as well as some that Mr. Fujii envisioned, all to be addressed in a large renovation project we hope to begin this year. For example, Lotusland was created as a private estate, but now that it is a public garden, many of the pathways are not sufficiently wide or appropriately sloped,

or constructed with appropriate materials. Lotusland commissioned an ADA Accessibility Report, which provides recommendations for renovating paths to ensure safe access for all, and we will incorporate these to accommodate all public visitors without compromising the aesthetic integrity of the garden.

The clay-bottom pond was not originally intended to be an aesthetic feature of the estate, but has evolved to that. Lotusland is committed to managing the pond sustainably and allowing a natural bio-system to occur in the pond. Ultimately, the desired aesthetic of the pond is greater water clarity so the koi fish can be viewed, while maintaining the reflective quality on the surface of the water. The long-term vision for the pond also includes an access point at the edge of the pond containing the lotuses so that visitors may approach them more closely.

Other issues we plan to address in the renovation are removal and replacement of aging trees and plants that

cannot be saved, replacement of plants long lost from the garden, restoration of lost design elements, and inclusion of new design elements to meet our accessibility goals. We are pleased to have a team of two firms who are well versed in historic landscape restoration as well as Japanese garden tradition and design—Arcadia Studios, with Derrik Eichelberger as lead, and Paul Comstock Landscape, with Paul Comstock as lead, are partnering with us to fulfill this Japanese Garden Renovation Project. The team is working now to prepare a master landscape plan and a preliminary budget, which we hope to present to donors this spring. Once we have secured sufficient funding, the team will create construction documents and a final budget to launch a competitive bid process. Construction will take several months, and the Japanese garden will be closed during that time. With enough donor support, we will break ground this fall, in anticipation of opening the garden again in spring 2016.



*Koichi Kawana's Shinto-style shrine dates from the late 1980s.*



*This antique Buddha statue holds a floral offering nearly every day.*



*A torii gate, traditionally used to mark a place of importance, at the entrance of the Japanese garden.*



## Director's Letter

THE BLUE GARDEN is one of Lotusland's most iconic gardens. Started in 1948 as a silver garden with the planting of blue Atlas cedars by Madame Walska, it evolved into the blue garden as she added blue-foliaged plants to complement the cedars. At the time, color-themed gardens were considered quite chic, and at its prime in the mid-1950s Lotusland's blue garden was celebrated as one of the most fascinating gardens in California.

Long after Madame Walska's death in 1984, plants in the blue garden continued to grow. Time eventually took a

toll as the cedars created a dense canopy, shading the sun-loving blue-foliaged plants. Even as the cedars lost their lower branches, the plants beneath them succumbed to the dense shade. Over time the garden lost its azure luster, turning a drab brown.

Thanks to a grant from the Hind Foundation in 2012, Lotusland was able to restore the blue garden to its former splendor. It is one of the few remaining examples of a color-themed garden created during a period in American garden design when this style was fashionable. The blue garden is widely known and

admired by garden designers, preservationists and historians, and seeing this "period piece" is a highlight of any visit to Lotusland.

The blue garden is as relevant now as it was in Madame Walska's heyday. The plants in the blue garden are drought-tolerant and thrive in our dry Mediterranean climate. The blue garden is also the perfect setting for the temporary art installation *Murder of Crows* in our current exhibit, *FLOCK: Birds on the Brink*.

Gardens, made of living, growing, changing organisms, are never finished. Maintenance is ongoing, and in another 60 years, the blue garden will need to be restored once again. That is why Lotusland is committed to raising endowment for every single garden, to guarantee the care and preservation of all our beautiful, important and historic gardens for future generations.

We are pleased to announce that the Blue Garden Endowment Fund, made possible by a \$1 million grant from the Hind Foundation in honor of Greg Wm. Hind, will care for this special garden in perpetuity. We are extremely grateful to Greg Hind, who supported the restoration, and now to the Hind Foundation, who has preserved it in his honor.

Warm regards,  
Gwen L. Stauffer




The blue garden got a new lease on color with a generous grant by the Hind Foundation.

## FLOCK: Birds on the Brink

A CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION INSPIRED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPERATIVE  
FEBRUARY 28 TO MAY 23



Boston Artist David Hochbaum  
*Murmuration 2015*



Seattle artist Sharon Beals  
*Barn Swallow Nest Photograph*



New York artist Gary Smith  
*Nests for Lotusland Curly Willow by the Lotus Pond*



# FLOCK Events

## INNOVATORS AND INFLUENCERS IN THE STUDY AND APPRECIATION OF BIRDS

**P**RIOR TO EACH presentation, the gates will open early for an opportunity to explore the garden and to see the *FLOCK* exhibition. Check your confirmation or [lotusland.org](http://lotusland.org) for details. Call 805.969.9990 for reservations or for more information.

**LINNEA HALL AND RENÉ CORADO**  
***The Beauty of Birds and Their Perils***  
**Sponsored by Rich and Luci Janssen**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 11 • 2:30 TO 5:00 PM**  
**GATES OPEN AT 1:00 PM**



Linnea S. Hall, Executive Director at Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (WVZ), and René Corado, WVZ Collections Manager, share their passion, knowledge and expertise about birds in a presentation on the amazing beauty and wonder of the species that inhabit our planet, and the dangers that some face from humanity. Book signing and reception follow presentation. Members \$60; non-members \$70.

**WESTERN FOUNDATION  
 OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY  
 FIELD TRIP**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 13**  
**9:00 AM DEPART LOTUSLAND**  
**1:00 PM RETURN LOTUSLAND**



An exclusive private tour of one of the world's largest collections of bird eggs and nests. The collections comprise 200,000+ sets of bird eggs representing approximately 4,000 species; 20,000+ nests; and 56,000 bird study skins, all in a 22,000-square-foot building in Camarillo, California. Members \$65; non-members \$75.

**JEFF CHEMNICK AND  
 SATIE AIRAMÉ**  
***Birders Travelogue of Belize,  
 Bolivia and Ecuador***  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 18**  
**3:30 TO 5:30 PM**  
**GATES OPEN AT 2:00 PM**



Join Santa Barbara bird and botanical enthusiasts Jeff and Satie for an exciting photographic birders tour of Belize, Bolivia and Ecuador. Enjoy imagery and stories from the spectacular Andean vistas and steaming Amazonian rain forests. Reception follows presentation. Members \$60; non-members \$70.

**JOAN LENTZ, COREY WELLES  
 AND GREG HOMEL**  
**INTERNATIONAL  
 MIGRATORY BIRD DAY**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 9**  
**9:00 AM TO 4:30 PM**  
**GATES OPEN AT 8:30 AM**



**9:00–10:30 AM**  
**Bird Walk with Joan Lentz,**  
**followed by coffee**

**11:00 AM–12:00 PM**  
**Joan Lentz**  
***Why the Santa Barbara Region***  
***is for the Birds***

**12:00–1:00 PM**  
**Lunch**

**1:00–2:00 PM**  
**Corey Welles**  
***The Rich Bird Habitat of Lotusland***

**2:30–3:30 PM**  
**Greg Homel,**  
**award-winning photojournalist**

Enjoy a day-long Lotusland celebration of birds with noted author Joan Lentz, award-winning photojournalist Greg Homel and Lotusland plant health coordinator Corey Welles. Corey's *The Rich Bird Habitat of Lotusland*, Greg's stories and images from his extensive travels in search of birds to the four corners of the world and Joan's unmatched local avian knowledge all combine for an exceptional day in the garden. Book signing and reception follow presentations. Members \$75; non-members \$85.

## COLLECTIONS NEWS

*Erythrina*

*M*OST SOUTHERN CALIFORNIANS are familiar with the coral tree. There are several common species of this genus *Erythrina* including some rather large ones such as *E. coralloides*, which can dominate the landscape and are best suited for parks and other spacious public areas. The genus does have many other less well-known and smaller species, however. Lotusland recently partnered with the San Diego Zoo to trial some propagations of *Erythrina* that they are growing.



*Erythrina eggersii*, commonly known as Cock's-spur, is native to Puerto Rico.

*Erythrina*s grow on the major continents of the world with subtropical or tropical climate zones, as well as islands that may have once been connected to them. One of our new accessions is a form of *E. breviflora* named *petraea*. It is native to Mexico, but in a very restricted region. Others received in this exchange are *E. eggersii* from the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, *E. elenae* native to Cuba and *E. sandwicensis*, which hails from the "Sandwich Islands" as the early maritime explorer Captain Cook called the Hawaiian Islands.



*Erythrina sandwicensis* from the Hawaiian Islands.

Species of plants that have diversified on such isolated places as islands are often quite distinct from their relatives on larger land masses. These *Erythrina*s represent some of those rare plants. Many are now endangered by human development, and preserving their germplasm is one of Lotusland's goals in building its plant collections. The added bonus is that they are also quite ornamental and should provide interest in the landscape when they are planted out. —Virginia Hayes



*Erythrina* seedlings being nurtured in the Lotusland nursery.



Paul Mills, Assistant Curator at Lotusland.

## Bouquet of the Year

*L*OTUSLAND ASSISTANT CURATOR Paul Mills was recently awarded the Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society 2014 Bouquet of the Year Award. Paul was recognized as a distinguished member of the horticultural community and for his contributions to the advancement of horticulture in the Santa Barbara area. The society thanked Paul for his "commendable achievements in horticulture" and for being an "esteemed plantsman, lecturer and volunteer."

Paul is a valuable member of the Lotusland team, and we all are proud to join in the celebration and congratulate him for his truly remarkable achievements.

## SAVE THE DATE

## Exceptional Plants: Auction and Sale

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 • 2:00 TO 5:00 PM

Back by popular demand!

Save the date for a fabulous plant sale and auction for garden connoisseurs featuring choice, rare and hard-to-find plants.

Ticket and sponsorship information is available at [www.lotusland.org](http://www.lotusland.org) or contact Courtney Tentler at 805.969.3767 x116 or [ctentler@lotusland.org](mailto:ctentler@lotusland.org).





# Horticultural Happenings

## SUCCULENT GARDEN RENOVATION

THE SUCCULENT GARDEN was originally planned and planted by Lockwood de Forest in the 1940s. Renovated by Charles Glass and Bob Foster in the 1970s, the area displays succulent plants other than cacti, euphorbias and aloes. Recently, assistant grounds superintendent Alex Chavez worked with members of the Santa Barbara Cactus and Succulent Society (SBCSS) to plan and implement a renovation.

An initial meeting and survey with Art Posch, SBCSS president, and Jim Foster, Lotusland member/docent/supporter, resulted in a project that was not only funded by SBCSS, but also implemented with participation of the club.

The first order of business was to widen the stabilized decomposed granite pathway. The "crew" removed green glass edging and border plants before widening the path to an ADA-acceptable four feet.

Next, a thinning of overgrown succulent groundcovers revealed beautiful landscape rocks partially hidden for many years and created space for additional specimen plantings.

Some new plants have been acquired, including a group of *Kalanchoe beherensis*, to restore and complement the existing landscape. More new plants and some historical surprises will be added as part of the project. Lotusland is grateful to the Cactus and Succulent Society for their generosity and hard work!

## WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

SINCE THE MID-1980s, an affiliation with Santa Barbara City College has provided

two paid part-time positions to students enrolled in the Environmental Horticulture program. Work experience for City College students is Lotusland's oldest uninterrupted public program. Students gain practical experience and earn school credit while working with Lotusland's grounds staff. Over the years, several students accepted regular full-time positions on the grounds staff.

In 2015 the program is funded by the Towbes Foundation and Ted and Coleen Friedel, whose generosity has made it possible for Lotusland to offer five paid part-time positions to EH students. Five outstanding students are now performing regular grounds maintenance tasks and helping on special projects.

Lotusland is grateful to our sponsors for their support of this valuable and rewarding program.

## PALMETUM UPDATE AND THE DROUGHT

EVERYTHING WE DO at Lotusland is affected by the drought. The water table continues to drop, and Lotusland's one well has become less efficient. We are doing all we can to conserve and use water wisely. Our horticultural practices over the past 25 years have helped to prepare the landscape for efficient use of water, but we must continue to modify our practices and develop strategies to deal with prolonged drought.

Grounds and facilities maintenance personnel work to reduce irrigation and conserve as much water as possible. Gardeners use soil probes and water only when needed. Mulch is replenished to help maintain soil moisture. Portable low-flow irrigation systems are constructed and used to target irrigation...sometimes they're used on just one plant.

As the drought continues, we've observed signs of stress rarely seen here. Hedges and some large trees that have never required supplemental water are showing dieback and wilt. We've lost six or so Monterey pines this year alone. They are shallow-rooted trees and by the time they show symptoms, it's usually too late. Strategies are being developed to care for the canopy that is important to understory plantings throughout the garden.

There could be some hard choices



Two of our work experience students are Karen Fortunato and Andrea Harrison.

to make if the drought persists. We're discussing the options in order to be ready to modify our landscape maintenance practices or implement new strategies as necessary.

Completion of the new palmetum is being postponed because of the drought. The project will complete a 514' historical axis from the wishing well through the cypress allée, across the lotus pond, through a new palmetum to an historic George Washington Smith designed tile bench. Designer Eric Nagelmann has guided the installation of hardscape features and the placement and planting of about 20 palms. More palms already growing on Lotusland property or in the nursery will also be planted. Additional palms and groundcovers will not be planted until the drought abates. Pathways and other hardscape features will be completed. An ADA-compliant brick ramp has been installed and will provide access to the lotus pond once the garden is opened. This garden will be attractive even if it's not completely finished. Check it out the next time you visit the garden.

—Michael Iven



Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society volunteer Bruno Bardini helping to make the path to the succulent garden wheelchair accessible.



An ADA-compliant brick ramp has been installed and will provide access from the main drive to the lotus pond once the garden is opened.



# Members' Family Day • *Birds in Paradise!*

## SATURDAY, MAY 30 • NOON TO 4:00 PM



Lotusland wishes to thank you, our members, for your support by hosting our 18th annual Members' Family Day. All members are invited, especially children of all ages!



Generously Sponsored by  
*Thomas & Nancy Crawford, Jr. in Honor of Their Grandchildren*

Activities will include:



COURTESY PHOTO



BOB DEBRIS

**Parrots on Parade:** Get up close and personal with a flock of avian ambassadors and be educated and entertained by a plethora of parrots! • 1:30 PM TO 2:15 PM and again at 2:45 PM TO 3:30 PM  
Dress up in paradise-style costumes and pose for your free souvenir photo taken by photographer extraordinaire **Bob DeBris** • NOON TO 3:30 PM  
On the main lawn, everyone can enjoy activities and crafts, face painting by **Anji Lawson** and the giant mural by **Kathy Mills** • NOON TO 3:30 PM

## Garden Admission to Members' Family Day IS FREE!

You must reserve space for your family by mailing in the reservation form,  
along with a non-refundable vehicle fee of \$15.

To allow as many members as possible to attend, Lotusland requests one vehicle per membership. Members are welcome to bring family or friends, no dogs please. Don't have enough room in your vehicle? Please consider asking your guests to become members and purchase their own vehicle pass. All vehicles are valet parked.

Mail your reservation form early as this event quickly fills to capacity.  
No phone or email reservations, please. If you have questions or need a membership brochure mailed to your guests, please call Member Services at 805.969.3767, ext. 120 or 115.

Bring your own lunch basket and enjoy a picnic on the lawn!  
**Remember: No food will be available to purchase.**

Complimentary lemonade, iced tea, juice boxes and water will be available all afternoon.  
Enjoy a complimentary ice cream cone served from 1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM.  
A limited number of picnic blankets will be available, or you can bring your own.

Please return this reservation form to: Ganna Walska Lotusland, Attn: Member Services, 695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108.  
**Your confirmation, parking pass for entry and a map will be mailed to you upon receipt of your reservation form.**

## Reservation Form

Member Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Total no. of attendees \_\_\_\_\_ Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ No. of adults \_\_\_\_\_ No. of children 3 to 12 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ No. of teens \_\_\_\_\_ No. of children 2 and under \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Knowing children's ages helps us to plan activities.

– Enclosed is our family's non-refundable vehicle  
reservation fee of \$15.00

**We know to bring our lunch basket if we choose!**  
**There will be no food to purchase.**

*Complimentary assorted drinks will be available all afternoon.*

**Don't delay mailing your reservation form!**

### Payment Method:

– Check # \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed made payable to Ganna Walska Lotusland  
– VISA – MasterCard – AMEX – Discover

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

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_





# LotusFest!

SATURDAY, JULY 11 • 2:00 PM



***Please join us for a party celebrating the spectacular flower that is Lotusland's namesake.***

July is peak blooming season, and guests will have the opportunity to view these uniquely beautiful flowers while enjoying a relaxing afternoon at this casual, fun event.

*Enjoy these afternoon delights:*

Wine tasting from Santa Barbara County's premier vintners  
Smooth jazz • Delectable hors d'oeuvres • Lotus lore galore • Lotus viewing

Lotus flowers open during the day and close at night. Prime viewing time during LotusFest will be until 3:00 or 4:00 PM, depending upon weather conditions, so make sure to allow time to savor the spectacular view of lotuses in bloom.

Tickets are \$95 for Lotusland members and \$105 for non-members.  
To register for this fun and enlightening event, please call 805.969.9990.



## Cacti and Cocktails

SATURDAY, MAY 16 • 3:00 TO 6:00 PM

**S**TROLL THROUGH LOTUSLAND and enjoy the magnificent epiphyllum and remarkable cactus blooms where the late afternoon light can be magical. Join a docent-led tour or members may explore the garden on their own. Specialty cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Admission is \$60 for members and \$70 for non-members. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 805.969.9990.



*Members and friends enjoying an evening at Lotusland.*

## Behind the Scenes Tour

WITH CURATOR VIRGINIA HAYES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10 • 2:00 TO 4:00 PM

**T**AKE A STROLL with Curator Virginia Hayes to see these hidden features and more: the wellhead inside Lotusland's George Washington Smith-designed pump house, the nursery and propagation areas, and our acclaimed composting and compost tea brewing operation.

Free for *Lotus Keeper* members; \$45 for general members. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 805.969.9990.



*A peek inside the main greenhouse at Lotusland.*

## Solstice Twilight Tour

SATURDAY, JUNE 20 • 4:00 TO 6:30 PM

**T**HE SOLSTICE TWILIGHT TOUR invites you to celebrate the longest day of the year in the garden at Lotusland. Members and their guests can explore the garden on their own or choose a docent-led tour.

Begin with a cool beverage or glass of wine in a commemorative Lotusland wine glass. Journey up to the main house to enjoy a light snack and refill your glass in the sunken drawing room from 5:00 to 5:45 PM. The magical light of the season combines with the blooms and colors of the garden to create a very memorable event. Cost is \$65 for members, \$75 for non-members. Reservations are required. Please call 805.969.9990.



*In the evening, the shell pool glows with a turquoise hue.*

## Summer Bounty: A Lotusland Food and Wine Fête

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, JUNE 27

**T**HIS INTIMATE culinary celebration provides an experience like no other. Enjoy an exceptional farm-style feast expertly paired with cellar select wines during the evening twilight in the gardens of Lotusland.

Legendary winemaker Ken Volk of Kenneth Volk Winery leads the conversation as he shares his passion for selecting his perfect wine to pair with the evening's gastronomical delights.

This year's to-be-announced guest chef will prepare dinner with all fresh ingredients from local farms and Lotusland's orchards. Please join new Board President Connie Percy and Executive Director Gwen Stauffer as they host a unique and unforgettable dining experience.

This third annual farm-to-table dining extravaganza is an exclusive benefit for Lotus Keeper members, and



LEA ANNA DROWN

an invitation will be mailed in mid-May. Tickets are \$250 per person (\$125 is tax deductible). Call Bambi Leonard at 805.969.3767, ext. 120 with questions or to become a *Lotus Keeper* member and join in the fun.



## ANNUAL MEETING

## Recapping the Highlights of 2014

NEW BOARD PRESIDENT Connie Percy welcomed guests to the 2015 Annual Meeting and thanked her fellow board members for their hard work and dedication to Lotusland. Keynote Speaker Janet Garufis, President and CEO of Montecito Bank and Trust, spoke about the role of philanthropy in our community.

Executive Director Gwen Stauffer delivered the State of the Garden Address. One of the highlights was the announcement of the \$1 million Endowment Grant for the Blue Garden made possible by a generous grant from the Hind

Foundation in Honor of Greg Wm. Hind in October 2014. High points Lotusland celebrated in 2014:

- 234 Lotusland volunteers gave more than 16,500 hours of service.
- 1,349 member households generated \$444,000.
- Grants awarded to Lotusland totaled \$1,250,000.
- *The Lotus Society* welcomed six new members and now totals 140.
- Hosted 2,576 K through 12th grade students, teachers and chaperones.
- *Lotusland Celebrates: Once Upon a Time* set a new record for fundraising.



Outgoing Board President Larry Durham and Connie Percy, new President of the Lotusland Board of Trustees.

In closing, Gwen had this to say, "Lotusland is a special place that helps bring meaning and value to our daily lives by honoring, inspiring and supporting the creative, intellectual, artistic and spiritual aspect of ourselves."



Executive Director Gwen Stauffer and Guest Curator Nancy Gifford.

## FLOCK Premiere Opening

THE PREMIERE OPENING for *FLOCK: Birds on the Brink* was a celebration of the garden, contemporary art and the daily presence of birds in our lives. A delightful and lively evening was spent meeting the artists and previewing the extraordinary garden installations and artwork. This incredible exhibition is the brainchild of

Executive Director Gwen Stauffer and Guest Curator Nancy Gifford, the culmination of two years of planning.

The work of 35 artists was inspired by an environmental imperative—the global loss of wild bird populations and their role as indicators of the health of our planet. *FLOCK* is on display through May 23.



LOTUSLAND CELEBRATES

Passage to India

Sunday, July 26, 2015

Please Join Us • Space is Limited • Reserve Your Table Now

Sponsor \$15,000

(ten tickets, five VIP parking passes and a gift)

Sustainer \$10,000

(ten tickets, two VIP parking passes and a gift)

Contributor \$7,500

(ten tickets, two VIP parking passes and a gift)

Benefactor \$5,000

(ten tickets, one VIP parking pass and a gift)

Patron \$1,200 (two tickets and a gift)

Invitations will be mailed mid-June. Individual tickets (\$375) will be available beginning July 15 as space permits. Contact Courtney Tentler at 805.969.3767, ext. 116 or [ctentler@lotusland.org](mailto:ctentler@lotusland.org) for more information.

## Spectacular One-of-a-Kind Auction Items

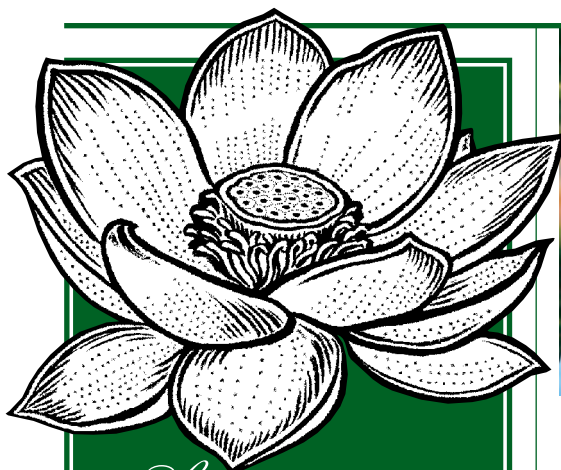
LOTUSLAND CELEBRATES will feature six unique live auction items including a luxurious 10-day trip to discover the Gardens of India. The journey was designed specifically for Lotusland by Siddhi Ellinghoven and Stefan Hermann, who have years of experience leading tours to India, and will feature a rare visit to the expansive gardens of the President's residence in India's capital, New Delhi, as well as explorations in the cities of Udiapur and Jaipur.

Another spectacular item to be auctioned will be the *The Lotus Root Bracelet with Diamonds*, which was designed and fabricated specifically for Lotusland by David Lee Holland Fine Jewelry in New York from 100% recycled precious metals and conflict-free natural color premiere diamonds. The bracelet features solid 18-karat gold lotus root sections accented with 1.19 ct of fully faceted brilliant diamonds.

For more information or to place an absentee bid, contact Courtney Tentler at 805.969.3767, ext. 116 or [ctentler@lotusland.org](mailto:ctentler@lotusland.org).







## The LOTUS SOCIETY

### MEET OUR LOTUS SOCIETY DONORS

**W**E ARE VERY GRATEFUL that Stan Shayer and Jeffrey Romano chose to join *The Lotus Society* last year. They first visited Lotusland in 2006 and described their experience in this way: "We were immediately amazed by the eclectic, uniquely designed botanical gardens. These gardens continue to be unlike any other gardens we have visited in the world. Living in Northern California, we were unable to



Jeffrey Romano and Stan Shayer  
*Lotus Society donors*

visit as frequently as we would have liked, but continue to be fascinated by Madame Ganna Walska's garden design and plant selection. Lotusland's unique and unusual collection of gardens and programs are special for many individuals who may not have had access to such a fascinating place."

Stan and Jeffrey both have had long careers with Chevron Corporation, primarily in Finance and Information Technology roles. Stan retired in 2012 after 32 years with Chevron, and Jeffrey is currently in his 32nd year with the company. They have been members and supporters of Lotusland for almost 10 years and say that they "are interested in helping to maintain and preserve the gardens for future visitors, and hopefully inspire the next generation of garden caretakers." When Stan and

Jeffrey decided to finalize their estate plans, they said that they knew "...we wanted to include Lotusland so that Madame Walska's vision will continue to flourish. Members of *The Lotus Society* share the same passion as us; ensuring future generations will be able to enjoy these magnificent gardens."

We too are passionate about Stan and Jeffrey's enthusiasm and dedication to Lotusland and look forward to their having more time to spend in Southern California, and at Lotusland, in the future.  
—Anne Dewey



### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome and thank

James and Ellen Zissler

as new members of *The Lotus Society* for their generous support.

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, ext. 105.

## Help Make Lotusland's Wishes Come True

### PLANT COLLECTION MAPPING

An iPad2 with Wi-Fi and cellular service to use on the grounds in mapping plant collections and landscaping infrastructure. The price is \$729.



### WATER GARDEN POTS

Reproduction of antique rolled rim pots in the water garden by renowned Italian artisans. Two at \$1500 each.



**T**O DONATE FUNDS for these items, please call Anne Dewey, Lotusland's Director of Development, at 805.969.3767, ext. 105, or email her at [adewey@lotusland.org](mailto: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.

## Thank You to Our

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Ontraport

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# Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

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Continued on page 15

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### WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN DECEMBER 2014, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2015

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## Spring and Summer 2015 Member Events

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

### Saturday, April 11

*Linnea S. Hall and René Corado*  
*The Beauty of Birds and Their Perils*  
2:30 TO 5:00 PM  
See details page 5. Please call  
805.969.9990 to register.

### Monday, April 13

*Western Foundation of Vertebrate  
Zoology Private Tour*  
9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM  
See details page 5. Please call  
805.969.9990 to register.

### Saturday, April 18

*Jeff Chemnick and Satie Airamé*  
*Birders Travelogue of Belize, Bolivia  
and Ecuador*  
3:30 TO 5:30 PM  
See details page 5. Please call  
805.969.9990 to register.

### Saturday, May 9

*International Migratory Bird Day*  
Day-long celebration with author  
Joan Lentz, Lotusland plant health  
care coordinator Corey Welles  
and award-winning nature photo-  
journalist Greg Homel. See page 5.  
Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

### Saturday, May 16

3:00 TO 6:00 PM  
*Cacti and Cocktails*  
See details page 11. Please call  
805.969.9990 to register.

### Saturday, May 23

Last day of *FLOCK* exhibition.

### Saturday, May 30

12:00 TO 4:00 PM  
*Members' Family Day*  
See details pages 8 and 9 to register.

### Wednesday, June 10

2:00 TO 4:00 PM  
*Behind the Scenes Tour*  
See details page 11. Please call  
805.969.9990 to register.

### Sunday, June 14

11:30 AM TO 2:00 PM  
*The Lotus Society:*  
*Annual Recognition Luncheon*

### Saturday, June 20

4:00 TO 6:30 PM  
*Solstice Twilight Tour*  
See details page 11. Please call  
805.969.9990 to register.

### Saturday, June 27

5:00 TO 8:00 PM  
*Summer Bounty: A Lotusland  
Food and Wine Fête*  
See details page 11.

### Saturday, July 11

2:00 PM  
*LotusFest!*  
See details page 10. Please call  
805.969.9990 to register.

### Sunday, July 26

4:00 TO 8:00 PM  
*Lotusland Celebrates: Passage to India*  
See details page 12.

### Saturday, September 19

2:00 TO 5:00 PM  
*Exceptional Plants: Auction and Sale*  
See page 6. Go to [www.lotusland.org](http://www.lotusland.org)  
for more information.

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### Tours

Tours are offered at 10:00 AM and  
1:30 PM, Wednesday through Saturday  
from February 16 and November 15.  
Call 805.969.9990 for reservations.

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