

The Lotus—Our Fascinating Namesake

BY VIRGINIA HAYES

DID YOU KNOW that lotus flowers “heat up” during sex? Did you know that lotus seeds that have lain dormant for a thousand years have germinated and grown? Did you know that both the Asian and American lotus have been used for food and medicines for untold generations? And did you know that the lotus family is one of the earliest groups of flowering plants on the earth?

Long revered as a symbol of purity and spiritual transcendence by Hindus and Buddhists, the Asian—or Indian—lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera* ssp. *nucifera* is its botanical name) has been grown in Asia, India and Egypt for centuries. It also grows naturally throughout Malaysia, New Guinea and Australia. What many people may not realize is that the yellow-flowered American lotus (*N. nucifera* ssp. *lutea*) thrives in similar aquatic habitats all over the eastern half of the North American continent from southern Canada to Florida.

Lotuses grow in water up to six feet in depth at the margins of still lakes or ponds and slow-moving rivers. The rhizomes (horizontal stems) of the plant spread along the muddy surface of the bottom of the pond or lake. From them the large leaves (up to 30 inches across) are borne on stout stalks that emerge from the water to a height of three feet or more. Flowers rise up even higher, to open in full sun. These flowers are outsized as well and when fully open may be more than a foot in diameter.

Besides being quite extraordinary in appearance, lotuses possess some distinctive and fascinating properties. To start, the surfaces of the leaves are coated with secretions of waxy substances much like many other aquatic

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PHOTOS BY BOB CRAIG

The morning light catches the opening lotus bloom in all its abundance and glory.

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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.



Lotusland's water garden, home to a magnificent display of its namesake flower.

Continued from page 1

and terrestrial plants. In their watery environment, this serves them well by shedding water and yet retaining just the right amount of moisture in the tissues within. What researchers have discovered is that this wax forms in a uniquely intricate crystalline pattern that is the most efficient design of its kind yet to be found in nature. In fact, it is so good at shedding foreign material that engineers have modeled a number of industrial applications on it, including protective coatings and fabrics.

Lotus flowers also have some interesting adaptations. Most people are familiar with the broad cone-shaped pod that forms in the center of the blossom and holds the seeds. For a short time when the flower first opens, this structure, along with the stamens and petals, is the source of measurable radiant heat. Through chemical changes within the cells, enough heat is produced to raise the temperature within the flower as much as 18°F above the surrounding air temperature. This phenomenon is not unique to lotuses as it occurs in several other groups of plants, most notably some of the aroids or philodendron relatives. Speculation about the possible function of this adaptation ranges from the obvious role it plays in helping to volatilize the perfume that attracts pollinating insects to actually aiding the insects themselves by warming them up for flight.

The seeds of lotuses are getting some attention by researchers these days, too. It has been repeatedly proven through radio-carbon dating that lotus seeds can persist in old lakebeds for more than a thousand years. These discoveries were made in China in recent years, and several attempts to actually sprout and grow the plants have been successful. In one instance, of the six seeds found aged 95 to 1288 years old, two-thirds sprouted and grew. They are now growing in the United States Botanic Garden in Washington, DC. Others from different locations are thriving in national and commercial nurseries in China and the U.S.

The paleohistory of the genus is also remarkable. Leaves analogous to modern lotuses have been identified



The broad cone-shaped pod forms the center of the blossom and holds the lotus seeds.



Fresh lotus seeds inside a pod and a partially peeled seed show the plant's structure.



Rhizomes are horizontal stems that spread along the muddy surface of the bottom of the pond.

in the fossil record from the late Cretaceous period (146 to 65 million years ago). This makes them among the oldest flowering plants still alive.

The two widely separated areas of the current lotus-growing range have been physically separated since early in its history. Movement of the earth's crustal plates created the rift between our modern continents beginning in the Jurassic period, 206 to 144 million years ago. The two subspecies seem to have spent millions of years apart and yet are still very closely related. The current division of lotuses into two subspecies is based on this disjunct distribution, physical differences in flower color and in the length of the stamens, and by molecular analysis of their DNA.

As you might expect with a plant that has been around so long, humans have found any number of uses for it.

Both the seeds and rhizomes are edible. The rhizomes contain high-quality starch, and the seeds are a source of carbohydrates and protein. Asian and Native Americans ate them cooked fresh or dried for later use. The large leaves make convenient packaging material for wrapping food to be steamed in and, worn upside down on the head, provide an effective temporary rain hat. Some medicinal properties are also ascribed to the seeds and they are used to "strengthen the spleen and cultivate the heart" among other things. Because of its long history as a cultivated plant, the distribution of both the Asian and American subspecies is assumed to be much larger than it might otherwise have been.

Of course, the exotic beauty and size of the lotus flowers have led to their extensive cultivation as ornamentals.

The history of hybridization and selection of unique forms of the Asian lotus dates back centuries in China. Records of double-flowering forms are noted in the Wei Jin dynasty (220 to 581 AD) and others grown for their variation in color from the wild type are noted in the Tang dynasty (618 to 907 AD). The lotus flower was revered in Hinduism and subsequently Buddhism. As these religions spread throughout Asia, the lotus was carried along with their followers and introduced to many other countries. Its cultivation continues today, and the number of cultivars now exceeds 300 in China and Japan. In more recent times, the American lotus has contributed its yellow color to the palette, and hybridizers in the western world as well as in the east have introduced many new creations by crossing it with other forms.



The lotus leaf is coated with a waxy secretion forming an intricate crystalline pattern that helps shed water and maintain proper moisture balance.



Lotus root can be stir-fried, boiled, braised, steamed or deep-fried and remains crisp yet tender, with a creamy and starchy texture that's similar to taro root.

Director's Letter

UNEXPECTEDLY CAPTIVATING. A feast for the eye! Incredible! Beautiful and peaceful. A unique and special garden! A must for plant lovers!

These are only a few of the onliners posted on TripAdvisor by people who have recently visited Lotusland. These and many more guests, who come from around the globe just to visit Lotusland, went on to describe their experiences as unequaled and worth the trip to Santa Barbara just to see a garden that cannot be experienced anywhere else.

Guests who made comments on TripAdvisor are fascinated by the cultural history of the garden, as well as the story of the garden's creator, Ganna Walska, and they mention the richness

of cultural artifacts at Lotusland. Many more admire the garden's beauty and serenity. They cite the exceptional maintenance of the gardens and the incredible diversity of plants from all over the world. They also compliment the engaging and knowledgeable docents leading garden tours. Interestingly, each guest also posted adoration for one or two particular gardens that most impressed them. It seems everyone has a favorite!

Of TripAdvisor's 150 things to do in Santa Barbara, Lotusland is consistently ranked number two—second only to the Santa Barbara County Courthouse. On top of that, national and international garden writers are constantly blogging about Lotusland, and *Travel & Leisure* magazine calls Lotusland “one of the nation's most beautiful gardens.”

In my seven years as Director of Lotusland, I am never at a loss for words to describe the gardens, yet words always prove to be inadequate. How can one sum up Lotusland in an elevator speech? Many first-time visitors arrive thinking Lotusland is “just another garden,” only to finish the tour with effusive and joyful praise.



LEA ANNA DROWN

Gwen Stauffer

One must see the garden to understand.

We are so fortunate to have Lotusland in our community. I hope that you will immerse yourself in this magical place, again and again, to reconnect to that “thing” about Lotusland that brings you joy, peace and inspiration. How would you describe Lotusland? Join any one of the travel blogs, leave us a message on Lotusland's Facebook page or drop us a note. If the garden doesn't render you speechless—like it sometimes does to me—we would love to hear your portrayal of our very special Lotusland.

Warm regards,
Gwen L. Stauffer



“A Feast for the Eye”

Reviewed June 13, 2015

Beautiful Gardens with a most amazing assortment of plant, shrubs, succulents and cacti. And yes- one Lotus - was in bloom. To see the Lotus blossoms come in July and August. In early June during our visit we saw beautiful cacti, bromeliad and other amazing flowers. But its the texture and variety of the plants that makes this garden well worth the rather expensive entrance fee. If you think you may come more than once a year, look into getting a membership. Also plan some time in the gift shop which had exquisite items for children and adults.

Visited June 2015

Cerinda G.
Topanga, California

COLLECTIONS NEWS

Aechmea blanchetiana

WITH ITS FIERY orange foliage, the Brazilian bromeliad *Aechmea blanchetiana* stands out in any garden, even among the myriad bromeliads at Lotusland. We now have 12 individuals of an uncommon and extremely red form of this plant known



This striking red form of *Aechmea blanchetiana* ‘Wally Berg’ comes from Bahia, Brazil.

as *Aechmea blanchetiana* ‘Wally Berg,’ thanks to a generous donation by Ron Caird of Por La Mar Nursery in Goleta.

Por La Mar Nursery had acquired its plants from Bird Rock Tropicals in Encinitas, which had in turn received their initial plants in 2000 from the renowned bromeliad grower John Anderson of Corpus Christi. The plants that were grown in Encinitas developed an amazing red color, but were slow to offset and flower so they were shared with a grower in Cairns, Australia, who then flowered the plant, produced seed and supplied some seed in return to Bird Rock Tropicals.

John Anderson named this form of *Aechmea blanchetiana* for his travelling partner and the person who initially collected the plant in the wild, Wally Berg. Wally was an extraordinary bromeliad

grower, often winning top awards and best in show at bromeliad conferences and shows. His private bromeliad collection was considered one of the finest in the world, with many unusual and rare species. Wally was a supporter of the Bromeliad Society International, donating many rare plants to sales and auctions, often for the benefit of the Bromeliad Identification Center at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. He was known for his extensive travels throughout tropical America in search of new and unusual bromeliads and is credited with many discoveries and introductions. This striking red form of *Aechmea blanchetiana* comes from one small population near Puerto Seguro, Bahia, Brazil, and will soon be on display in Lotusland's bromeliad garden.

—Paul Mills

Music in the Garden

NEW WEST GUITAR GROUP WITH SARA GAZAREK

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22 • 4:00 TO 7:00 PM

THE LOTUSLAND MAIN LAWN is center stage for an exclusive performance by the New West Guitar Group, with acclaimed vocalist Sara Gazarek.



New West Guitar Group

Join us for a unique opportunity to enjoy vibrant acoustic rhythms and a superb vocal performance in the magical landscape of Lotusland. The NWGG has developed a wide-spread reputation as one of the premier guitar ensembles in the world. Featuring guitarists Perry Smith, John Storie and Will Brahm, NWGG performs classic pop covers, jazz standards and exciting originals. Sara Gazarek is a strikingly original artist with limitless potential. Blessed with a gorgeous, translucent voice and a supple sense of time, Gazarek is steeped in the jazz tradition, but is not afraid to embrace the music that moves her generation.

Tickets at the sponsorship levels are available now and include premium



Sara Gazarek

table seating and a gourmet picnic provided by Whole Foods. Please contact Director of Development Anne Dewey at 805.969.3767, extension 105, or adewey@lotusland.org for sponsorship information.

Invitations will be sent to all members in early August.

Navigating Lotusland TIPS FOR MEMBERS

RESERVATIONS

- Reservations are required for all tours, whether docent-led or self-guided.
- Call 805.969.9990 between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday, and 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturdays.
- The tour season starts mid-February and ends mid-November.
- Tours start no later than 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM, Wednesday through Saturday.
- There is a window of arrival for all tours, even for members who choose self-guiding: morning tour arrival time is between 9:30 and 10:00 AM, leaving Lotusland by noon; afternoon tour arrival time is between 1:00 and 1:30 PM, leaving Lotusland by 4:00 PM.
- Cancelling reservations is important, and we greatly appreciate a call if your plans change.

SATURDAYS

- Plan ahead and book early for Saturday tours as these fill quickly.

WHEELCHAIRS

- Wheelchairs are available to borrow upon request when making your reservation. Lotusland staff and volunteers are not available to push wheelchairs.

DOCENT & SELF-GUIDED TOURS

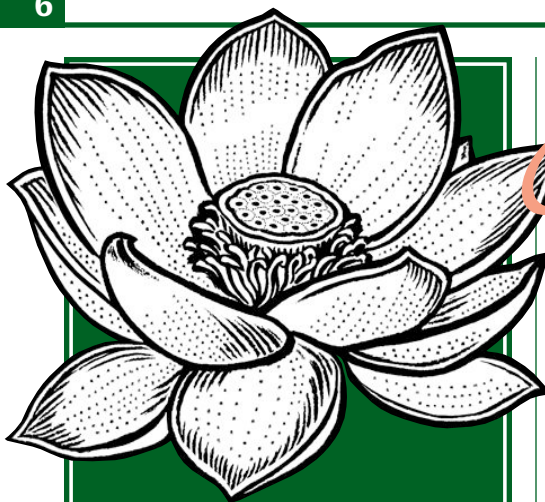
- Docent tours are always available, but only members and their accompanying guests may schedule a self-guiding tour.
- Please stay on pathways at all times and avoid blocking guests while painting, sketching or photographing. All photography or artwork is for personal use only and cannot be sold without a Location Licensing Agreement.
- Contact the reservation office if you want to add additional guests to your tour.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Every docent leading a tour has a radio and can call for assistance.
- Smoking or taking plant cuttings is prohibited.
- No pets are allowed; but we accept service animals with valid papers.
- The main house is used for offices and is not a part of the tour; however, the restrooms are available—enter through the main front door.
- There are two opportunities to enjoy a lunch at Lotusland. As a Cultivator-level member or higher, you can enjoy a picnic for 10 once a year between the

morning and afternoon tours. Enhanced tours with lunch can be scheduled by calling Courtney Tentler at 805.969.3767, ext. 116. If you have questions, please call Membership Manager Bambi Leonard at 805.969.3767, ext. 120.





The LOTUS SOCIETY

LUNCHEON HONORS MEMBERS OF THE LOTUS SOCIETY

ON A DAY that started with morning fog but turned into warm sunshine, we thanked and celebrated our members of *The Lotus Society* with a special recognition luncheon. Held at the beautiful home and gardens of Paul and Jane Orfalea, more than 100 members enjoyed delicious food with wine generously provided by Presqu'île Winery.

The Lotus Society is now in its 15th

year with 142 visionary members who understand the critical need to build Lotusland's endowment. These very special supporters have made planned or outright gifts of \$10,000 or more to Lotusland's restricted endowment.

For more information about *The Lotus Society*, please contact Lotusland's Director of Development, Anne Dewey, at 805.969.3767, extension 105.



Madison and Suzanne Murphy of Presqu'île Winery.



Wilson Quarré and his wife, The Lotus Society Chair Peggy Wiley, with Jane and Paul Orfalea.



Lotusland Lifetime Honorary Trustee Robert Emmons with Christine Emmons, Rosalind Amorteguy and Ron Fendon.



Rob Smart with The Lotus Society members Gary Brown, Ellen Zissler and Bill Malis.



Executive Director Gwen Stauffer with The Lotus Society members Bill Dewey and Mahri Kerley.

MEET OUR LOTUS SOCIETY DONORS

CRYSTAL WYATT is the Vice-President of Ganna Walska Lotusland and has served on the board of trustees since 2012. She has served on the *Lotusland Celebrates* committee since 2008 and was the co-chair from 2010–12, and she has been a docent since 2005! Crystal's long relationship with Lotusland is an inspiration to all the staff and volunteers.



Crystal and Cliff Wyatt

When asked why Lotusland was important to her, Crystal said: "It is important to me because it uniquely represents the intersection of history, art, culture, personality, botany and ecology. The visual displays are stunning and that was what initially captivated me, but what keeps me engaged is working to preserve the garden for future generations. It was actually my in-laws, Phil and Carolyn Wyatt (long-time Lotusland supporters), who 12 years ago insisted I should go on a public tour. I was so astonished by the beauty and magic that I immediately became a member so that I could do self-guided tours and spend time alone in the garden to just experience it quietly."

Crystal said it is hard to list all of the reasons why she believes the garden is a treasure to the community. "It is such a wealth of botanic material and

knowledge in sustainable horticulture. The aesthetic experience provides such joy to visitors and their curiosity, interest and imagination are piqued with the history, architecture and personality of Madame Walska. It is impossible to take the spectacular variety of plant life in this world—many of them represented at Lotusland—for granted once you see the garden. Most of these plants I will never be able to see in their natural habitat, yet they can be grown and displayed in this magnificent garden. Lotusland educates visitors about habitat loss, use of pesticides and the interrelatedness of the plant and animal kingdoms. It also provides an incredible educational benefit to children with our Fourth Grade Outreach program. Lotusland inspires both children and adults to consider careers or to volunteer

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in the fields of architecture, nurseries, opera singing, landscaping, garden administration and many more."

Crystal and her husband Cliff became members of *The Lotus Society* in 2011. She commented that "I would like to say I became a member because I was aware of how important endowment is to the garden, but the truth is that Lori Meschler—my all-time favorite docent and Lotusland mentor—turned to me one day and said 'Why aren't you a member of *The Lotus Society*? You should go do it now.' I actually went straight to the office and talked to Anne Dewey about joining! It was a big commitment for Cliff and me, but Anne worked with us so that we could fulfill our pledge over a period of years. It has brought our family great joy to know that we have participated in Lotusland's endowment program for this wonderful garden."

As for the future, Crystal thinks that "Lotusland has an incredibly talented and committed staff with the vision to maintain and enhance the garden and the collections to their maximum potential. The only thing that slows this process is the challenge of raising funds on an annual basis. It is my dream that the community will support this treasure and sustain it in perpetuity by assisting us with our endowment program that will provide both annual and future support. My dream continues with the hope that everyone who has enjoyed a special experience at Lotusland will value the garden and contribute in any way they can...rather a 'pay it forward' campaign to maintain and preserve Lotusland for current and future generations. I want my children and their children to be able to enjoy the splendors of Lotusland as Cliff and I have been privileged to be able to do."

Crystal grew up in Santa Barbara and has always been fascinated by the natural world and ecology. During college she earned a B.S. in Biology and a M.P.H. in Public Health. She and Cliff have two young children and two big dogs! In addition to caring for her family and spending countless hours at Lotusland, Crystal is a trustee at the Santa Barbara Zoo, serves on the Zoofari committee and volunteers with Direct Relief Women. Thank you to the Wyatt Family for everything they do for Lotusland!

The New Palmetum Is Now Open

THE ORIGINAL swimming pool constructed in the 1920s (now the lotus pond) was set in a long 514-foot axis that extended from a tile bench at the north end to the wishing well at the southern end. When Madame Walska purchased the property in 1941, plantings flanking the long axis were not maintained. Eventually, she planted a number of *Butia* palms as well as at least one hybrid *Jubaea X Butia* along the northern edge, but made no other significant changes to the area. We recently cleared all the overgrown weedy species from the area and restored what is known from just a few historic photos of the path and bench.

Under the direction of Eric Nagelmann with Lotusland staff input, the slopes were terraced and limestone rocks placed as retaining walls. The brick portion of the original path was re-laid, and a compacted gravel path topped with naturally colored crushed rock was restored. Another sloping path was designed to connect the driveway with the path circling the water garden, which will eventually make this area ADA compliant and available to visitors with disabilities for the first time. The

pathways are lined with glass cullet à la Madame Walska.

Several of the initial palm plantings were from other locations at Lotusland as well as a number grown from seed or small starts in the nursery. Additional palms and groundcover will be installed as the availability of water improves, but the garden is now open for visitors and the long vista is restored.



The view looking from the water garden north into the now open palmetum.

Help Make Lotusland's Wishes Come True

ELECTRIC GENERATOR

TO KEEP LOTUSLAND operating during our frequent power outages and to alleviate the necessity to rent an event generator. Subaru RGV13100T. \$5000



GARDEN PATH FRIENDLY WHEELCHAIR

THIS WHEELCHAIR is lightweight with wheels better designed to take on the uneven terrain of the garden pathways. Karman LT-980 Ultralight K4. \$400



TO 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. 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.

Japanese Garden Renovation

DESIGN CONCEPT PREVIEW

BY GWEN STAUFFER

AFTER YEARS of intense study of the history of Lotusland's Japanese garden and months of planning with our landscape architects, Derrik Eichelberger and Paul Comstock, and approval from the Lotusland Board, we are pleased to release the conceptual plan for the renovation of the Japanese garden. The Lotusland/landscape architect team adhered to the foremost guiding principle that, if Ganna Walska could ever set foot in the garden after it is renovated, she not only would recognize it as hers, but she would consider it completed. According to our records and archives, the vision she and Frank Fujii had for the garden was never fulfilled. With that in mind, we developed a plan that would accomplish these over-arching goals:

PRESERVE OR RESTORE IMPORTANT HISTORICAL ASPECTS AND FEATURES OF THE GARDEN

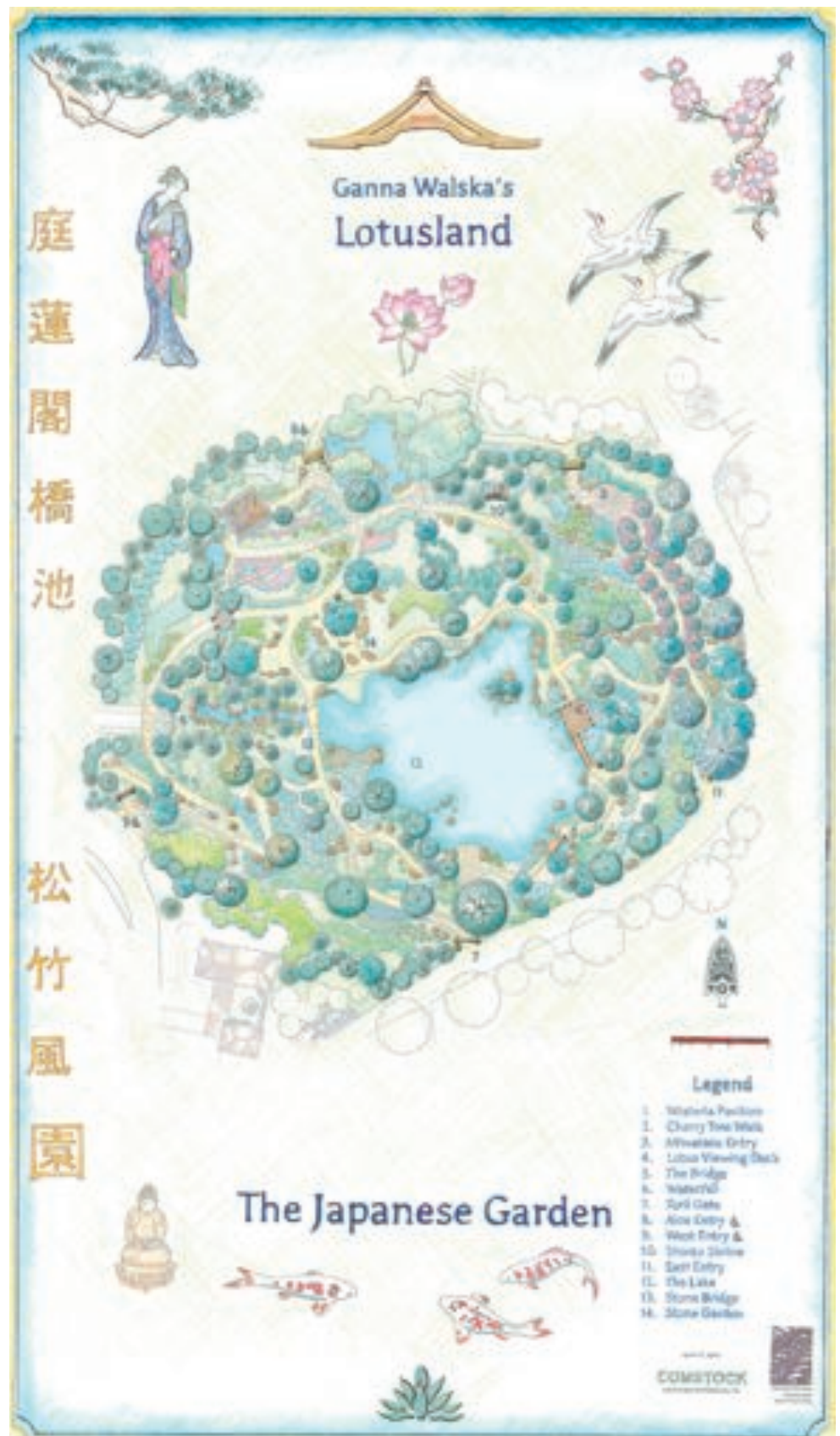
Much of the garden infrastructure is failing, and some garden features have been altered, eliminated or added since Walska's death so that the garden is no longer historically accurate.

INCORPORATE WALSKA'S AND FUJII'S LONG-TERM VISION FOR THE GARDEN

We have applied Walska's and Fujii's future intentions to guide all decisions on preservation, revision or removal of current garden features and, most especially, the addition of new features.

RECONSIDER ADDITIONS AFTER WALSKA'S DEATH THAT WERE NOT IN LINE WITH HER AND FUJII'S VISION

Some features—the wisteria pergola and the Shinto shrine, for example—came after Walska's death but were not prescribed in her or Fujii's vision, yet they remain a part of the history of the garden. The plan is to improve upon the execution of these post-circa features.



IMPROVE THE POND'S OVERALL AESTHETIC AND WATER QUALITY TO ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABLE BIOLOGICAL SYSTEM

Walska's and Fujii's archived vision, which included changes to the pond and improving the water quality so the Koi fish are visible, has always been a Lotusland priority.

RESOLVE THE LACK OF ACCESS FOR VISITORS, AS WELL AS FOR MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

Not surprisingly, the ADA Accessibility Report indicates that persons with physical disabilities cannot access the gardens. The conceptual plan includes widening of paths, restoring historic paths that disappeared and altering some paths so that the Japanese, aloe and water gardens are fully accessible for the first time.

REVITALIZE THE PLANT COLLECTIONS

Hazardous and badly aging plants will be removed and replaced where appropriate. Many original plantings that have disappeared over the decades will be restored. New plantings will occur as per Walska's and Fujii's vision.



View from the existing stone bridge, with an enhanced rock garden and path to the left. Lotus viewing deck on the other side of the pond and a cherry tree walk beyond.



View from the reconstructed Wisteria Pavilion, with an accessible path through the restored azalea beds below. Opened view to preserved cycad hill, renovated Koi pond and enhanced rock garden.

With the conceptual phase completed, the architectural team has begun design development to determine the details of the renovation. In the meantime, Lotusland has launched a campaign to share those details as they develop and raise the funds needed to accomplish our goals. Preliminary

estimates place the project at \$3 million. The vast majority of Lotusland members and visitors tell us the Japanese garden is their favorite, and we hope all of you will help us, in any way you can, to preserve this important, historic garden and finally honor Walska's and Fujii's vision.



View from new Miwatasu landscape overlook near the main drive, overlooking the lotus viewing deck, renovated pond and enhanced path, to the preserved stone bridge beyond.

Horticultural Happenings

JASON BONHAM recently accepted a horticulturist position at The Berkeley Botanical Garden. Jason maintained the fern garden since beginning his employment at Lotusland in September 2011. We were very sorry to see Jason go, but are happy he was able to take another step in his career. We're sure he will be very successful in all his future horticultural endeavors, and we wish him all the best.

Karen Fortunado was hired to replace Jason. Karen, a recent graduate of the Santa Barbara City College Environmental Horticultural program, worked at Lotusland this past summer



Jason Bonham recently accepted a horticulturist position at The Berkeley Botanical Garden.



Karen Fortunado is the newest member of the garden staff, taking over the duties of maintaining the fern garden.

as a work experience student. She worked with Jason in the fern garden and will build on that experience to maintain the garden going forward.

Born and raised in Carpinteria, Karen has had a life-long interest in plants and plant maintenance. She remembers her dad rewarding her with Star Wars figures for completing gardening projects around the yard when she was a little girl. She enrolled as an art major at SBCC, but switched to environmental horticulture in 2012. She is a Certified Green Gardener and completed the Permaculture Design Certification course at Quail Springs. Karen is a very competent, friendly, compatible person. Say "hello" to Karen the next time you're in the garden.

—Mike Iven

FAVORITE LOCALLY NATIVE PLANTS

ONE OF LOTUSLAND'S favorite native plants to use for hedges is the Catalina cherry (*Prunus lyonii*). We have found it to be a hearty drought-tolerant plant that not only provides useful screening but is also great looking. Native plants like this can often substitute for our usual hedges that grow too fast and need more water. The Catalina cherry also provides important habitat for beneficial insects and wild birds. While the plant can be tightly sheared, at Lotusland we incorporate a "coarse to fine" pruning technique whereby a gardener prunes only the tallest shoots and lightly trims the sides, if at all. In this way, the plant maintains a more natural look, and it also keeps the plant healthier as excessive shearing is detrimental to plant health.



Catalina cherry (*Prunus lyonii*) is a hearty drought-tolerant plant that not only provides useful screening but is also a great looking plant.

Pruning can be done annually or biannually, saving huge amounts of time. It is important to plan the timing of the pruning to allow the plant to bloom. This is in contrast to the typical monthly shearing many gardens incorporate. By allowing it to bloom and send out long shoots, insects and birds can enjoy pollen, nectar, fruit and nesting sites. Many birds nest in the winter to spring transition so you need to be aware and make an effort to avoid pruning and tree work during spring nesting season. The screening provided by the Catalina cherry at Lotusland is impressive given that it is irrigated on rare occasions and only using drip irrigation.

There are many good choices of native and non-native plants for the garden, but every once in a while a real performer comes along that just keeps finding its way into the design. Toyon, lemonadeberry and Mexican elderberry are also good native plant choices for screening and habitat, but for the formal garden, the Catalina cherry has been a real champion. Using this plant allows Lotusland to save water and time, as well as provide the necessary bird and insect habitat that is a critical component to our sustainable horticulture program.

—Corey Welles

Summer Twilight Tour

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15 • 3:00 TO 5:30 PM

THE VERY POPULAR Twilight Tour allows you to enjoy the waning days of summer in the garden at Lotusland. Members and their guests can explore the garden on their own or choose a docent-led tour.

Begin the tour with a cool beverage or glass of wine in a commemorative Lotusland wine glass. Enjoy a light

snack and refill your glass in the main residence's sunken drawing room from 4:00 to 4:45 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 members, \$75 non-members. Reservations are required. Please call 805.969.9990.



Visitors enjoy the magical afternoon light in the aloe garden.



Lotusland Celebrates Spectacular Auction Items

For more information or to place an absentee bid, visit lotusland.org

YOGILAND

THIS EXTRAORDINARY one-day private retreat for 12 combines healing therapies, yoga classes and centering practices with a delicious lunch provided by Merci To Go.

A SENSATIONAL FEAST FOR TEN

AN INTIMATE DINNER for ten at Lotusland with an incredible meal by chef Ayda Robana of Om Sweet Mama includes cocktails and hors d'oeuvres followed by a delectable three-course dinner paired with cellar-select wine provided by VIP guest Rajat Parr.

BRONZED BOTANICAL: A COLLECTORS DREAM

THIS BRONZE SCULPTURE of a botanic specimen from Lotusland was created by the internationally renowned contemporary artist Zoe Crosher, whose artwork is in the LA County Museum of Art and New York's MoMA.

THE SPIRIT OF THE GARDEN CAPTURED ON CANVAS

THIS STUNNING acrylic-on-canvas painting created by talented artist Susanna Vapnek transports the viewer to Lotusland's sublime garden landscape.

JEWELS OF INDIA



TAKE A BIT OF THE EXOTIC home with this striking Lotus Root Bracelet, a one-of-a-kind stunner inspired by Lotusland and handcrafted by fine jeweler David Lee Holland in their Soho, NYC workshop.

PASSAGE TO INDIAN GARDENS



A SPECTACULAR JOURNEY specifically for Lotusland! This 10-day trip for six in February 2016 will highlight the gardens of India, including a rare visit to the gardens of the President's residence in New Delhi.



LotusFest!

SATURDAY, JULY 11 • 2:00 TO 5:00 PM

GUESTS ENJOY wine tasting on the main lawn from a dozen of Santa Barbara County's premier vintners, delectable hors d'oeuvres, beer and live music. Experience a relaxing afternoon at this casual, fun event.

Lotus flowers open during the day and close at night. Prime viewing during

LotusFest! is until 3:00 or 4:00 PM, so make sure to allow time to savor the spectacular lotuses in bloom.

Book early as this popular party will sell out! Tickets are \$95 for members and \$105 for non-members. Space is limited. Reservations are required and may be made by calling at 805.969.9990.

Behind the Scenes Tour

WITH CURATOR VIRGINIA HAYES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

2:00 TO 4:00 PM

TAKE A WALK behind the scenes with Curator Virginia Hayes to see some of the hidden features and inner workings of the garden. Highlights of the tour include 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 to Lotus Keeper level members; \$45 for general members. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 805.969.9990.



An up-close and comprehensive look at Lotusland's acclaimed compost tea brewing operation is a fascinating part of the Behind the Scenes Tour.

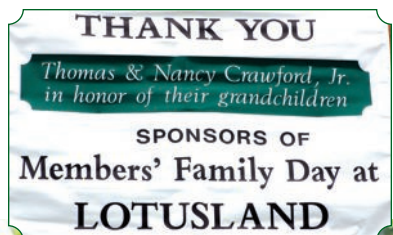
Members' Family Day, May 30, 2015

Birds in Paradise

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IN HONOR OF THEIR GRANDCHILDREN

The banner pictured at right thanks our generous Members' Family Day sponsors.

Crawford family members take a break from an afternoon of fun and games.



The rubber duck runnel race is always a hit.



Unbridled creativity on display at the craft table.



A young artist adds to this year's masterpiece.



Sharing a memorable moment at Members' Family Day.



Face painting and ice cream—it doesn't get any better than this.



Parrots on Parade were a big hit with the audience.

SHARE YOUR PASSION FOR LOTUSLAND Become a Lotusland Docent

DOCENT TRAINING BEGINS OCTOBER 5, 2015
COFFEE RECEPTION FOR PROSPECTIVE DOCENTS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 • 9:30 AM

LOTUSLAND VISITORS are treated to botanical and historical information about the estate, interpreted by docents who undergo extensive training to prepare them for giving public tours.

Beginning October 5, Lotusland will offer a 10-week docent training course providing all the necessary information for conducting a tour of the garden. Instructors are drawn from Lotusland staff, the Santa Barbara community, and other California academic and horticultural institutions.

These informative and enjoyable Monday morning sessions last from 9:30 AM to NOON.

A reception for prospective docents will be held on Monday, September 14. This event offers prospective docents an opportunity to learn more about docent training and to meet some of the very knowledgeable docents who currently lead tours of the garden and friendly staff members.

Most of our last graduating docent class were Lotusland members before they joined the training class.



Lotusland docents participate in an extensive training program that covers the history and horticulture of the garden.

Please tell your friends and neighbors about this program. For more information or to reserve a place at the reception, please contact Kitty Thomassin, Volunteer Coordinator, at 805.969.3767, ext. 112, or kthomassin@lotusland.org.



Docent Jayne Burton was recognized at this year's picnic for 20 years of service and docent Lori Mecscher for 15 years.

Lotusland Volunteer Picnic

ON JUNE 8, Lotusland celebrated the generosity of our 250 volunteers. These dedicated individuals gave more than 16,600 hours of their time leading tours, staffing the Garden Shop, maintaining the grounds, serving on boards and committees, assisting with special events and helping the office run more efficiently. We thank our volunteers from the bottom of our hearts—Lotusland could not function without your efforts. We are always in need of enthusiastic volunteers eager to assist in the operation of this world-class botanic

garden. Please give us a call and find out how you can get more involved with Lotusland. For more on volunteering, visit us online or contact Volunteer Coordinator Kitty Thomassin at 805.969.3767, ext. 112.

Thank You to Our

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Lady Ridley-Tree

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Artist Meredith Morin created a chalk painting for Lotusland at the recent I Madonnari Italian Street Painting Festival at the Santa Barbara Mission.

Lotusland Members

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2015

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MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2015

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Summer and Fall 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, July 11

LotusFest!

2:00 TO 5:00 PM

See details on page 11. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Sunday, July 26

Lotusland Celebrates: Passage to India

4:00 TO 8:00 PM

Please contact Courtney Tentler at 805.969.3767, ext. 116 to reserve your space.

Saturday, August 15

Summer Twilight Tour

3:00 TO 5:30 PM

See details on page 10. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, August 22

Music in the Garden

4:00 TO 7:00 PM

See details on page 5. An E-invitation will be sent to all members.

Monday, September 14

Coffee Reception for

Prospective Docents

9:30 AM

See details on page 13. Please call Kitty Thomassin at 805.969.3767, ext. 112 to reserve your space.

Thursday, September 17

Behind the Scenes Tour

with Virginia Hayes

2:00 TO 4:00 PM

See details on page 11. Lotus Keeper level members attend free; members and their guests \$45. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, September 19

Exceptional Plants:

Lotusland Auction and Sale

1:30 TO 5:30 PM

For ticket information or to donate a specimen plant, contact Patrick Reynolds at 805.969.3767, ext. 109.

Monday, October 5

Docent Training Begins

9:00 AM TO NOON

See details on page 13. Please call Kitty Thomassin at 805.969.3767, ext. 112 to reserve your space.

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.
