



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS VOLUME 24 NO. 1 WINTER 2015



Lotusland's FLOCK: Birds on the Brink exhibit includes this "Murder of Crows" installation in the newly restored blue garden.

TO BRING FOCUS to the world of birds, Lotusland presents the contemporary art exhibit *FLOCK: Birds on the Brink* from February 28 through May 23. Inspired by the interdependency of bird species to plant species, and to the human race, *FLOCK* celebrates the daily presence of birds in our gardens and communities while illustrating the critical impact of wild bird populations on our ecosystems and our own well-being. Guest curator Nancy Gifford, working with Lotusland staff, has gathered artworks and commissioned installations from nearly thirty local and international artists, which will be displayed in the pavilion and—for the first time—throughout the garden. Also unprecedented, some of the installations are created by members of the Lotusland staff.

As visitors stroll through the serene beauty of Lotusland, they are serenaded by a broad diversity of birds who thrive in this green oasis. Lotusland is a refuge for 85 species of birds that either reside

year-round or make extended visits during their seasonal migrations. These birds bring daily music to the garden, and their fanciful flights and decorative plumage embellish Lotusland's botanical

beauty. But these birds are more than just ornamentation—they are our allies in maintaining the garden, and the success of our sustainable horticulture

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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.



"*Solanum dulcamara*" by Penelope Gottlieb. Acrylic and ink, Audubon print on paper, 32"x44" framed.

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program is enhanced by the work these birds do for us.

Birds inhabit every ecosystem on Earth, at an estimate of 10,000 species worldwide. Most species are unique in their ecology and distribution; each individual bird species is very susceptible to changes in its habitat, as well as the broader environment, making birds excellent biological indicators of overall biodiversity. Scientists around the world are monitoring wild bird populations to assess global environmental and ecosystem health and the news is not good—12% of bird species worldwide are threatened with extinction, and another 8% may be considered threatened in the near future. More than 30% of the 800 bird species native to the United States are endangered or threatened. At the current rate of loss, one in every five bird species in the world could be extinct in the next 50 to 80 years.

Many of the reasons why we are so dependent upon birds are the same reasons that make birds excellent bio-indicators. Birds, such as hummingbirds, are important pollinators to very specific native plants, carrying pollen from flower to flower as they seek out nectar. Birds are critical to plant species dispersal as they gobble up the fruits and seeds of plants and later deposit the seeds to other locations in their droppings. Birds are also our best

collaborators in biological control of pests. Nearly 95% of all bird species snap up hundreds of thousands of insect pests each day, while birds of prey, like our resident red-shouldered hawk and barn owl, help us keep gophers, squirrels and other plant-munching vermin in check.

When the habitat of a bird species is at risk, so then is the bird species, and the condition of wild bird populations is an indication of the richness of all other species with that ecosystem. The overwhelming cause of loss of wild bird populations is loss of habitat for breeding areas, over-wintering grounds and migration sites. Green oases like Lotusland and our community's preserves, parks and even your backyard, are important habitats for birds, and the conservation of habitats—and the plants within them—help support wild birds. Another major cause of bird population loss is the use of pesticides. At least 5 billion pounds of pesticides are manufactured every year worldwide; the United States and Western Europe use 20% or 1 billion pounds annually. Recently introduced neonicotinoid pesticides that are highly toxic to bees are also killing innumerable populations of wild birds. Gardening organically saves birds, and birds assist organic gardeners.

Human fascination with birds also makes them excellent bio-indicators.



"*Ardeola Bacchus Speciosa*" by Karley Feaver. Mixed Media Taxidermy Pond Heron, dyed Spey Rooster cape, Grizzled rooster feathers, 24k gold leaf, wood, lacquer paint.



"Murmuration" by David Hochbaum, artist in residence, in the Lotusland Pavilion gallery.



"Barcode" by Fatemeh Burnes. Oil, acid, natural pigment and carving on copper, mounted to panel 48"x48".

The distribution, ecology, life history and taxonomy of birds has been well studied, as birds are easy to identify, survey and monitor. In fact, one in every four Americans is a bird watcher, often helping conservation organizations with annual bird counts and species monitoring projects. Bird-watching is big business, too, annually pumping \$107 billion and 660,000 jobs into the American economy.

All of the critical impacts birds have on our planet inspired us to mount *FLOCK*. As one approaches the exhibit entrance, you pass through "Silent Spring," a gauntlet of bird cages hung within the eaves of the pavilion, empty for the loss of birds that will not return. Within the pavilion, New York artist David Hochbaum's "Murmuration" flies through the room, mimicking the behavior of vast flocks of migratory birds, such as the extinct passenger pigeon. In the nest room, dedicated to

the incredible architecture and construction skills of birds, local artist Maria Rendon's nest of knitting needles is complemented by real nests from birds living at Lotusland. Oakland-based artist Esther Traugot creates delicate crochet-covered eggs to "put back" what has been abandoned or broken. Ms. Traugot says, "As bandage or cozy, these support structures investigate the relationship between nurturing and controlling nature. The meticulous act of crocheting mimics the instinct to nurture and protect what is viable, what is becoming precious. How do we 'care' for that which we depend upon?"

An exotic bird, created from the fantasies of New Zealand artist Karley Feaver is strange and marvelous with flamboyant plumes. In the gardens, local artist R.T. Livingston's "Sitting Ducks—Hiding in Plain Sight" decoys, normally created to draw in a wild flock to be shot by hunters, are safely nestled

in their camouflage plumage among the rocks by the fern garden swimming pool.

Other featured artists are Sharon Beals, Robin Bisio, Fatemeh Burnes, Joanne A. Calitri, Juan Fontanive, Robyn Geddes, Penelope Gottlieb, James Hodgson, Laurie Hogin, Nathan Huff, Philip Koplin, Pamela Larsson-Toscher, Michael Long, Alan Macy, Kaoru Mansour, Tom Mielko, Liza Myers, Keith Puccinelli, Norman Reed, Gary Smith, Gayle Stevens, Susan Tibbles and Luis Alberto Velazquez. Thank you to *Nesting Sponsors* Alice Gillaroo and Susan Jorgensen, Rich and Luci Janssen, Kate Schepanovich and Santa Barbara County Arts Commission; *Tweeting Sponsors* Daniel Bifano and Allan Brostrom; and *In Kind Donors* Deandra Dee and Jim Foster.

Please join us February 28 through May 23 to see the exhibit and attend a series of inspiring programs on birds.

—Gwen Stauffer



"Burning Crow" by Keith Puccinelli. Ink and acrylic on paper, 19"x48".



Madame Ganna Walska with her pet cockatiel Happy, photographed by J.R. Eyeraman.

FLOCK Events

INNOVATORS AND INFLUENCERS IN THE STUDY AND APPRECIATION OF BIRDS

PRIOR TO EACH presentation, the gates will open early for an opportunity to explore the garden and to see the *FLOCK* exhibit. Check your confirmation or lotusland.org for details. Call 805.969.9990 for reservations or more information.

FEBRUARY 27 PREMIERE OPENING *FLOCK: Birds on the Brink*

Join us for the opening celebration of *FLOCK*, a contemporary art exhibit inspired by an environmental imperative—the global loss of wild bird populations as an indicator of our planet's health. Lotus Keeper members FREE; members \$65; nonmembers \$85.

MARCH 7 JOHN MARZLUFF *Welcome to Subirdia*



KEITH BRUST

Noted international bird expert John Marzluff, a Professor of Wildlife Science at the University of Washington, is the author of *Welcome to Subirdia*. Join us for his fascinating lecture about the lives and habitats of birds and learn the steps we can take to protect this vital ecosystem. Book signing follows presentation. Members \$60; nonmembers \$70.

MARCH 10 PAULO VALERIO *Birding "Hot Spots" of Costa Rica*



Birding and natural history specialist Paulo Valerio's fascinating presentation is rich with his experiences and photography of the spectacular avian species in his native Costa Rica. Members of Lotusland and Santa Barbara Botanic Garden \$45; nonmembers \$55.

MARCH 28 SCOTT WEIDENSAUL *Living on the Wind: The Miracle of Bird Migration*



BILL UHRICH

Naturalist Scott Weidensaul is the author of more than two dozen books including *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*, a Pulitzer Prize finalist. A dynamic internationally recognized speaker, he shares his experiences, research and vast knowledge of bird migration. Book signing follows presentation. Members \$60; nonmembers \$70.

APRIL 11 LINNEA S. HALL and RENÉ CORADO *Beauty of Birds and Their Perils*



Linnea S. Hall, Executive Director at Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (WVZ), and René Corado, Collections Manager, share their passion and knowledge about bird conservation and habitat. Book signing follows presentation. Members \$60; nonmembers \$70.

APRIL 13 *Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology Private Tour*



An exclusive private tour of one of the world's largest collections of bird eggs and bird nests. The collections comprise 200,000 sets of bird eggs representing 4,000 species, 20,000 nests and 56,000 bird study skins. Members \$65; nonmembers \$75.

APRIL 18 JEFF CHEMNICK and SATIE AIRAMÉ *Birders Travelogue of Belize, Bolivia and Ecuador*



NELL CAMPBELL

Join Santa Barbara bird and botanical enthusiasts Jeff and Satie for an exciting photographic birders tour of Belize, Bolivia and Ecuador. Members \$60; nonmembers \$70.

MAY 9 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Enjoy a day-long Lotusland celebration of birds with noted author Joan Lentz, Lotusland plant health coordinator Corey Welles and award-winning nature photojournalist Greg Homel.

Director's Letter

THE SIMPLE ELEGANCE of Japanese garden design was first introduced to the American public at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, when American fashion was steeped in elaborate Victorian fancy. Japan's garden exhibit captivated the American public and launched a recurring influence of Japanese aesthetics in American architecture and garden design. The trend hit a decisive low when Pearl Harbor was bombed and, in a display of patriotism, most Japanese gardens in the United States were dismantled. After the war, American military men returned home from their Pacific tours, many accompanied by their Japanese wives. The influence of Japanese sensibilities on American design resumed, and the American elite built new Japanese gardens.

Ganna Walska, determined to have a Japanese garden, commissioned plans from a number of well-known Japanese garden designers, but she rejected them all. As was her penchant, she decided to design the garden herself, with assistance

from stone mason Ozzie Da Ros and Japanese gardener Frank Fujii, son of the well-known garden designer Kinzuchi Fujii, who was already on Walska's staff. The garden continued to evolve over the years, with additions made by Walska, Fujii, Charlie Glass and even the Board of Trustees after Walska's death in 1984.

As with so many other gardens at Lotusland, the Japanese garden has suffered the ravages of time and is in desperate need of renovation. Oddly enough, Lotusland's Japanese garden was never quite finished, as Walska and Fujii had a vision for the Japanese garden that was never fulfilled.

Lotusland's Japanese garden is the only Japanese garden open to the public in Santa Barbara and the central coast. It is also an important example of the types of Japanese-style gardens built during a significant period in the history of American garden design. It is also the most popular garden at Lotusland among our members and visitors.

After three years of intense study



Gwen Stauffer

LEA ANNA DROWN

of the complex layers of the garden, we are now ready to plan its renovation. We will be joined by a team of landscape architects to help us create the master plan, but before we begin construction we must raise at least \$1 million to pay for it all. We hope to complete the project in early 2016. Stay tuned!

With warmest regards,
Gwen L. Stauffer

Ganna Walska Lotusland Financials Are Online

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



WE ARE PROUD of our responsible financial stewardship and have recently added all our pertinent financial reporting information to our website.

This information can be found at www.Lotusland.org in the "About Us" tab. Navigate to "Financials," and all the current tax and reporting information is available on the same page.

The 2013 Annual Report can be downloaded as a PDF; IRS tax forms 990 for 2011-13 and links to the audited financial statements are also available on this page.

Ganna Walska Lotusland is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity, and on the same page is a link to the IRS website designating this listing. In many instances, this information is required for charitable contributions.

Thank You to Our

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Horticultural Happenings

NEW PLANTING BED IN THE DUNLAP GARDEN

AN AREA AT THE SOUTHEAST corner of the Dunlap cactus garden was not completed in 2003 when the rest of garden was created. That area near a utility road was being considered for other purposes that are no longer viable. Working once again with Dunlap garden designer Eric Nagelmann, Lotusland staff constructed a new planting bed that completes the garden and helps screen the utility road and the Ashley Road fence line from visitors in the garden.



Cactus garden before completion.

The planting bed is constructed exactly the same as those installed in 2003. A sandy soil mix, sub-surface drains, diorite boulders and Chili Bar Mine slate provide the hardscape for the plantings acquired from Lotusland's collection, from other institutions and from other sources. Five Chilean wine palms (*Jubaea chilensis*) were donated to Lotusland by Doug Coale, owner of Mesa Tree Company, and were planted in the background of the new planting bed. Insectary plants, mostly California natives, will be planted to complete the screening.



Cactus garden after project.

Some of the plants new to the garden are: *Echinosis litoralis* (central Chile) from the old Serra Nursery in Malibu; *Weberbauerocereus* sp. (Peru) from the old Serra Nursery; *Puya berteroniana* (Chile) from Huntington Botanical Gardens; *Pereskia* sp. from UCSB; and *Pereskia X bleo* from UCSB.

Lotusland is very grateful to the Garden Club of Santa Barbara and to Pierre Claeysens, who provided funding for this project. It was a pleasure to work with Eric Nagelmann once again to finish the installation of planting beds in the Dunlap garden. As always, we are most thankful for his support and amazing contributions.

—Mike Iven

New Trustee Mick Thomas

THIS YEAR we welcome Mick Thomas to the Board of Trustees, joining as Board Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee. Mick is COO/CFO of WMD Asset Management and previously served on Lotusland's Audit and Finance Committees. Mick attended University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, receiving a Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) in Banking, Corporate, Finance and Securities Law. Mick's wife, Kim, has been an invaluable member of the *Lotusland Celebrates* committee. Together with their children, Mick and Kim are members of Lotusland and live in Montecito.



Mick Thomas

New Board President Connie Percy

LOTUSLAND HEARTFULLY THANKS Larry Durham for his remarkable eight years of service on the Board of Trustees, including four as President. He has provided outstanding leadership and an intelligent, practical approach to help us meet our challenges.

Larry's undeniable passion for

Lotusland is shared by the new Board President, Connie Percy. Connie has been a Lotusland Board member for five years and most recently served as First Vice-President. Connie is a talented and committed trustee and her enthusiasm for Lotusland will certainly guide us well into the future.



Connie Percy



Larry Durham

The Garden Shop

THE GARDEN SHOP at Lotusland is not only one of the best places to shop for unique hand-crafted gifts, garden decor and jewelry, it is also a valuable source of revenue for the garden.

We are preparing for 2015 with some exciting new inventory items and wanted to give you a preview of some of the items that will be available. Your member's discount also applies to all online purchases at www.LotuslandShop.org and, remember, members are able to shop early on February 14 at our "Garden Lovers Stroll" on Valentine's Day.



New garden shop items include two gardener's journals, a porcelain bird vase, an attractive wire bowl adorned with a bird, a 15"x15" Ha Thai Songbird gold foil tray and a bird change tray by John Derian.

Giving Back

PAUL MILLS, Lotusland Assistant Curator, helped to make a difference by advising the grounds crew at Serenity House in Santa Barbara with their transition to a more drought-tolerant landscaping design.

Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care's Serenity House receives several hundred patients each year for end of life care without regard to the ability to pay. Paul's expert advice will help keep Serenity House looking at its best for the patients and families they serve, as well as help them save water.



Jose Casio, COO of Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care, with Paul Mills, Lotusland Assistant Curator.

Gifts for the Garden

GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND is more than a garden; being in its presence jolts our sensibilities, moves us, uplifts us, and inspires us.

When Ganna Walska made Lotusland her life's work, she found her calling. Everyone who visits can feel that calling in his or her own way, be it calming respite, joyful enchantment, horticultural enlightenment or spiritual awakening—no one who experiences it is not deeply moved.

The magnificence and magic of Lotusland require significant financial

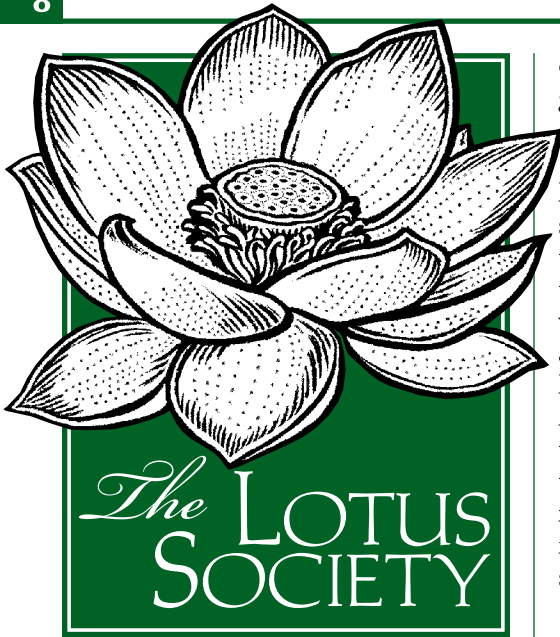
resources, and we count on your generosity to assure our survival. We encourage you to help us fulfill our mission by contributing to our annual appeal, Gifts for the Garden, co-chaired this year by Meryll Brown and Lynda Weinman.

To those of you who have so graciously already included Lotusland in your annual giving, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

If you would like to make a donation, we invite you to do so online or by calling Courtney at 805.969.3767, extension 116.



Students from our highly acclaimed fourth grade outreach enjoy a moment in the garden with docent Kevin Spracher.



MEET OUR LOTUS SOCIETY DONORS

FRED AND EMMY KELLER are long-time Lotusland supporters and members of *The Lotus Society*. I knew that Fred had been involved in Lotusland for quite some time and when I asked him how that came about, he told me this wonderful story!

"I had the opportunity to visit Lotusland in the early 1950s when Madame Ganna Walska opened the estate to a visit by the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. The crowd parked on Sycamore Canyon Road, peered through the wrought-iron main gate wondering what lay beyond. At the set time, the gate was opened and a group of prominent people in the

cactus and succulent world toured the garden. The group included Harry Johnson and Dave Grigsby—both prominent cactus and succulent collectors who acted as tour leaders for subgroups of the assembled guests. The tours led us through a fantasy of beautiful vistas and close-up views of wonderful specimens culminating in a gathering at small tables on the main lawn where refreshments were served. Madame Walska circulated among the tables checking to assure that all of the guests' needs had been met. My memories of that visit and my first impressions of the garden remain strong to this day."

Fred's wife, Emmy, first visited the estate in the 1970s, after getting special permission to see the garden, and created her own treasured memories. When Fred retired and moved to Santa Barbara—where he met Emmy while birding (he lent her his scope)—Lotusland was in the process of trying to gain permission from the county to open the garden to the public. It was Madame Walska's greatest wish that her incredible gift to the community could be enjoyed by everyone who wanted to see her beautiful garden. Fred wrote a letter of support to the local newspaper, which resulted in then current Executive Director Steven Timbrook calling Fred and giving him a private tour of the garden in 1991. Fred saw many changes to the garden since the 1950s and 1970s—mostly in the details as the garden has evolved over the years, but he said that it had

remained essentially the same unique treasure. Upon learning that the first docent training class was about to begin, Fred promptly signed up and was an active and much-valued volunteer for 12 years.

Fred and Emmy said that they joined *The Lotus Society* "...to continue our support of this cultural resource." They said that "...it was both easy and gratifying; we chose to establish an annuity that provides an income during our lifetime and the principal then goes to Lotusland." Fred and Emmy made their gift to *The Lotus Society* in honor of Charles Glass and Robert Foster, "who contributed so much to the present design of the garden." Charles was the Director of Lotusland for 12 years starting in 1971 and Robert was his assistant for many of those years. Fred met Charles and Robert when they owned a cactus nursery in Woodland Hills in the early 1960s. They went on to open Abbey Garden in Reseda—one of the largest and most respected succulent nurseries in the country. They were also the proprietors of Abbey Garden Press, founded in 1929, which specialized in books and magazines on cacti and other succulents. What a lovely tribute Fred and Emmy have made to those who helped to create Lotusland. We are all grateful to them for their many years of visionary support of this timeless garden to ensure that it will be taken care of in perpetuity. —Anne Dewey



NEW MEMBER

We welcome and thank

Lillian P. Lovelace

as a new member of *The Lotus Society* for her visionary support of the Theatre Garden Endowment.

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.



Fred and Emmy Keller, Lotus Society donors

Phase II Water Garden Restoration and New Palmetum

PALMS ARE UBIQUITOUS here at Lotusland and are some of the largest and oldest plants on the property. By the time Ganna Walska bought Lotusland in 1941, there were already quite a few palms, many of which dated back to the late 1800s when Ralph Stevens had his nursery on what was then called Tanglewood.

As early as 2003, the idea of creating a palmetum, a garden dedicated solely to palms, was proposed by Curator Virginia Hayes and included in Lotusland's master plan.

In 2009 Lotusland restored the Gavit-era cypress allée, south of the lotus pond, to the wishing well at the top of the water stairs. Thanks to support from generous donors, we are now restoring the historic axis paths north of the lotus pond, to the white tile bench designed by George Washington Smith. While we have no record of the plants placed there by the Gavits, we know that Ganna Walska moved palms into the area, just as she lined the entire driveway with palms. The phase II water garden restoration project is an excellent opportunity to re-incorporate a historic portion of the garden and create the proposed palmetum that continues Walska's legacy and fulfills our master plan goals.

Much has been accomplished since clearing began in September. Lotusland staff and contractors have been working with Eric Nagelmann to implement his landscape design on the approximately half-acre site. A large coast live oak and palms from the Ganna Walska era

remain, as well as the Gavit-era tile bench and sandstone steps and brick walkway from the water gardens. An historic footpath from the main drive to the water gardens' brick path will be converted to an accessible pathway that courses through the palmetum. About 20 keystone palms have already been installed, some of which are new or returning species to the collection, including an unusual *Livistona chinensis* with a bifurcated stem that was acquired from Sea Crest Nursery in Goleta. Spring is the optimum planting time for palms, so we will hold acquired plants until then.

The palmetum will afford space to further diversify and expand Lotusland's palm collection, which contains approximately 150 species. The Arecaceae, or palm family, encompasses about 2,500 species. Although they are found mostly in tropical or subtropical parts of the world, many of these plants grow extremely well in Santa Barbara. Palms from the Americas, Asia, Australia, Madagascar and New Caledonia will be represented in the palmetum, with about half of the 100 or so plants coming from the Lotusland nursery. Some of these plants are of wild origin, having been collected as seed on botanical expeditions. Although there is much work to be done, the grading, rockwork and planting/transplanting of large palms has given the new garden a presence and created a sense of anticipation and an eagerness to complete the installation.

We are very grateful to the wonderful donors who made the restoration



Livistona chinensis with a bifurcated stem.

PAUL MILLS

possible: The Ann Jackson Family Foundation; Philip and Patricia Bilden in honor of Eric Nagelmann; Roger and Gail Haupt in honor of Eric Nagelmann; Lucifer Lighting; and an anonymous donor. Their generosity and support to fund this restoration is extraordinary.

Once completed in spring 2015, an important and historical 514'-long architectural axis and gardens will be open for public tours. Look forward to experiencing what will surely become another signature Lotusland garden in 2015.

Until then, the palmetum is closed to the public but is viewable from the main drive. Check it out the next time you visit Lotusland.

—Mike Iven and Paul Mills



When Lotusland staff cleared the overgrown area, the white bench, a large *Quercus agrifolia* and existing palms were left in place to incorporate into the new garden.



A soil improvement/erosion control cover crop has been seeded in the area. It will be tilled into the beds before planting next spring.



Eleven large *Chamaerops humilis* moved from the garden to the backfield in 2007 to accommodate the *Hodel chamaedorea* palm collection will be planted in the new palmetum.

PHOTOS BY MIKE IVEN

Mike Iven

DIRECTOR OF GROUNDS AND FACILITIES CELEBRATING 30 YEARS AT LOTUSLAND

*M*ANY OF US are fortunate to visit Lotusland a few times a year, and we treasure the moments we spend in the garden. These visits instill a profound sense of connection and a deep appreciation of both nature and design. Imagine Mike Iven's unique relationship with the garden, having spent the last 30 years living and working in the incredible environment of Lotusland. His passion for and commitment to the garden are equaled only by his enormous contributions to creating and maintaining the masterpiece that is Lotusland.

On October 1, 1984, Mike was hired as the "Assistant Head Gardener," just seven months after Madame Walska passed away. There was no Executive Director, no Board of Trustees and very little structure in place to maintain or preserve what was at that time a grand residential garden in need of a lot of restoration. Mike worked with a crew that had the utmost respect for Ganna Walska and a commitment to a creative garden esthetic that still guides Lotusland's horticultural philosophy. By 1988, Mike was promoted to Grounds Superintendent. His professional landscape experience, horticulture studies at Santa Barbara City College and the management techniques he learned at the Laguna Parks Department served as the foundation for creating an organizational standard that was previously lacking. He reorganized the garden staff into cooperative teams with specific responsibilities and developed innovative procedures and processes to transform Lotusland from a residential to a public garden.

The amount of work accomplished under Mike's direction is as impressive

as the garden itself. Almost every garden has been restored to one degree or another, including renovating the cycad garden over a five-year period, restoring the blue garden, the water stairs, the rose garden, the cypress allée and theatre garden. Building a visitor center and creating the new Dunlap cactus garden are among the major undertakings overseen by Mike Iven.

When asked about the contribution he is most proud of, without hesitation Mike said it is the horticulture program that uses no chemical pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers. This nationally renowned sustainable program was developed by Mike through years of collaboration, investigation and practical experience.

It's an understatement to say that Mike has the respect and admiration of his crew and co-workers. His professional colleagues describe him as one who fiercely defends the garden and cares deeply about the well-being of his team. Many of these relationships are decades in the making, and everyone expresses a sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks for Mike's support, loyalty and the opportunity to be a part of a horticulture program that is both highly respected and truly extraordinary.

Director of Development Anne Dewey recalls a fluke monsoonal downpour that threatened the first annual *Lotusland Celebrates* gala in July of 1995. With the staff and caterers scrambling to prevent utter catastrophe, Mike put his arm around Anne and said in a calm and reassuring fashion, "We can do this...it'll all work out." These words and sentiments define Mike's unique ability to lead in face of adversity and achieve success where others may predict catastrophe. Cactus garden designer Eric Nagelmann describes Mike as having "a quiet elegance about him with great intelligence and integrity." Eric goes on to add that "Lotusland has been greatly enhanced by his presence." Steve Timbrook, Lotusland's first Executive Director, promoted Mike to his current position and describes him as "always open to new ideas, never defensive and always respectful of the garden crew." Curator Virginia Hayes speaks of Mike's accomplishments in



Part of Mike's original job description included night patrols of the grounds to help keep trespassers out of the garden, circa 1985.

"preserving the personality of Madame's garden" and helping to bring "Madame's garden creation back to vibrant life." Lotusland Executive Director Gwen Stauffer offered these thoughts: "There is no person I would rather partner with to navigate the enormous challenges we face on a daily basis. Mike has a thorough and exhaustive understanding of the history and complexities of this garden, and he is one of the most talented people that I know in the craft of horticulture."

When asked about his position among the great names of Lotusland—de Forest, Paylen, Stevens, Glass—Mike, in his always self-effacing manner, shrugs off the notion and credits the talented designers and hardworking teams past and present. He is adamant that the artistry of Lotusland is an intrinsic part of the garden's DNA, and Mike sees himself as a craftsman with the history, the knowledge and the tools that empower his team to make the garden as magnificent as it is today.

—Bob Craig



Mike Iven managing the green waste and composting process in his trademark hands-on manner.



Mike and his wife, Roberta Bloom, whose labors of love have also contributed greatly to the garden and to Lotusland since 1990.



Bettie Cox

I first met Bettie in 2005 at a prospective docent reception soon after she moved to Santa Barbara from her five-acre ranch in Los Olivos. One of Bettie's passions was her apple orchard where she grew Gala, Granny Smith, Red and Golden Delicious varieties. Bettie participated in the Annual Los Olivos Day in the Country each October, selling her apple pies,

cider and fresh apples. Bettie is proud of the fact her apples were grown without chemical pesticides. She used pheromone strips to control the codling moth and was able to harvest a much tastier and healthier fruit.

Bettie and her family lived in Los Angeles for 20 years and prior to that in Orange County for 24 years. She has always had a garden and a passion for birds, and while in Orange County, Bettie had an aviary and raised many hand-fed birds. Bettie's love of birds finds her volunteering every Tuesday at the Museum of Natural History with Athena, a barn owl, often seen perched on her hand.

Bettie has five children, including twin daughters, and is a proud grandmother of 12 and great-grandmother to 6. She enjoyed a long, interesting career in business as an office interior designer and automated document specialist.

The Japanese garden is her favorite with its tremendous variety of plants, rich cultural and historic elements, and a beautiful artistic design. Watching the plants grow and enjoying all the beauty brings her the greatest joy. Bettie also finds time to play golf, paint, attend concerts and enjoy the opera, and she is an avid birder. She has traveled to many countries, enjoying the culture and experiencing how other people live.

Bettie helps Lotusland in many ways—gallery sitting, in the office, helping at *Lotusland Celebrates* and working in hospitality for events. Bettie made many friends in her docent training class and has great praise for the program.

Volunteering brings much happiness and fulfillment to her life, and she especially enjoys meeting new people and the many opportunities to give back to Lotusland. —Kitty Thomassin

Exceptional Plants: Lotusland Auction and Sale

LOTUSLAND'S THIRD plant auction and sale on September 20 was once again not your ordinary plant sale. Plant lovers took home choice specimens and rare species from both the silent auction tables as well as from the spirited live auction during which an even dozen of very rare, very special items were auctioned off. Jeff Chemnick provided lively commentary extolling the interesting and striking features of each plant. Other choice plants, which were eagerly purchased in the silent auction, included new



Gwen Stauffer, Lotusland Executive Director, and auctioneer Jeff Chemnick cheerfully encouraged the audience to raise their bids.

varieties of sun-loving taros, colorful and/or spiny bromeliads, begonias, agaves and many more plants, a number of them propagated from Lotusland's collection, totaling 125 items in all.

A successful raffle also saw a happy winner take home a superb specimen of *Agave attenuata* 'Variegata.' The popular "buy it now" section allowed instant gratification for selected plants that were available for immediate sale throughout the afternoon.

As enjoyable as viewing and buying

all the wonderful plants was, the specialty cocktails, wine, beer and sumptuous hors d'oeuvres were relished by all throughout the afternoon. Santa Barbara Brewhouse even poured a plum beer that featured the flavor of summer plums from Lotusland's orchard. Many guests also took advantage of the opportunity to stroll through the gardens at their leisure.

Thanks to all our donors for their generous support (see page 14) and to our guests who enthusiastically bid on all the auction items.



James and Lauris Rose of Cal-Orchid are generous supporters and active participants in this wonderful summer afternoon event.



David and Eileen Tufenkian donated this *Fockea edulis* with an interestingly gnarled caudex for the live auction.

Trip to Palm Springs and the Annenberg Estate

JOIN US FOR an extraordinary 3-day and 2-night journey to Palm Springs, including a tour of Sunnylands, from Monday, February 2 to Wednesday, February 4 and discover why people say Palm Springs is blooming.

Explore the desert's rich architectural style, including a tour of Sunnylands, the famous Annenberg estate. The itinerary also includes private homes and gardens, architectural treasures, a private viewing of the Heather James Gallery and a visit to the Palm Springs Art Museum. Lunch and dinner will be provided daily including dinner at the elegant local's favorite, Jillian's, with an exquisitely prepared meal paired with fine wines.

On Wednesday we tour the house and gardens of the 200-acre Annenberg estate. This 25,000-square-foot mid-century modern house is located on spectacular grounds that include a



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

private golf course, tennis court, swimming pool and 11 fishing lakes.

Accommodations (priced separately) will be in the Colony Palms Hotel in Palm Springs. This luxury boutique hotel features stunning mountain views and all the amenities for the most discerning guest.

The cost is \$875 per person (including a \$180 tax-deductible donation to Lotusland). Lodging is not included,

allowing you to book accommodations you prefer. Travel aboard a comfortable 21-passenger coach leaving Lotusland early Monday morning and returning by early evening Wednesday. Single-day excursion rates are available.

For information and a detailed itinerary, please contact Courtney Tentler at 805.969.3767, extension 116, by email at ctentler@lotusland.org or visit www.lotusland.org/palmsprings.

Your Membership Matters

LOTUSLAND MEMBERS truly make a significant difference to the garden's financial well-being—more than 14% of our annual operating budget is a result of your generosity, and we are very grateful!

Your donation helps the garden in many ways, including preserving, maintaining and expanding Lotusland's rare and historic collections and supporting our sustainable horticulture program. It also supports our 4th Grade Outreach program, which reaches all of south Santa Barbara County and has now expanded into north Santa Barbara County as well.

Please consider increasing your level of support and taking advantage of the added opportunities to enjoy the garden. There are many options for you to choose from. Call Member Services at 805.969.3767, extension 120 or 115, to find out what works best for you or go on online at www.lotusland.org.

Garden Lovers Stroll SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14 • 3:00 TO 5:30 PM

IT IS NO WONDER that Lotusland is on everyone's list of most romantic places in Santa Barbara. Surprise your special someone with the perfect Valentine's Day celebration at Lotusland!

Make your reservation for this rare members-only event and experience the magnificence of the afternoon winter light and the glory of the blooming aloes. Begin with a toast at the Visitor Center and explore the gardens on your own or reserve a docent-led tour. The

gates open at 3:00 PM with wine, champagne, beer and light refreshments served fireside in the main house from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity to share Lotusland with someone special in your life and see the garden before the official 2015 opening the following week.

Special pricing is \$20 for members, \$25 for member's guests. Space is limited and reservations are required by February 12. Please call 805.969.9990.



A couple enjoys a peaceful stroll through the blue garden.

Morning Birdwalk at Lotusland

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 • 9:00 TO 11:30 AM

JOIN LOTUSLAND Research Associate Jeff Chemnick and Director Emeritus Steve Timbrook as they lead their annual winter bird walk. The morning tour focuses on seeing as many species as possible. This is a great way for both experienced birders and beginners to seek out avian “tourists” that spend the winter in Santa Barbara. We will have several pairs of binoculars to lend if you don’t have your own. The cost is \$50 for members and \$55 for members’ guests. For questions or to make a reservation, please call 805.969.9990.



A group of birders pause by the horticulture clock to catch a glimpse of a red-breasted nuthatch flying toward the cactus garden.

Help Make Lotusland’s Wishes Come True

GASOLINE POWERED ELECTRIC GENERATOR

Lotusland often loses electrical power due to construction work or as a result of bad weather. When power is lost during an event or otherwise, the ensuing challenges are huge and can be costly. The staff has identified the Honda EU2000i generator as a suitable short-term back-up system for our needs. The price is \$1,000.



NEW VIDEO PROJECTOR

Due to a recent video projector malfunction in the sunken drawing room, our system needs to be upgraded for today’s current technologies and formats. Our plan is to replace the broken projector with a Sony VPL EW276 model. The projector is a key part of our docent training program and ongoing educational lecture series. The cost is \$1,000.



10x12' TUFF SHED

As surprising as it may sound, Lotusland is running out of storage space. We rely on the durability and weather soundness of Tuff Shed Premiere Pro Series temporary storage spaces to keep equipment and materials safe, dry and organized. The price is \$5,000.



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.

Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2014

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Continued on page 14

Continued from page 13

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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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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.

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.

Saturday, February 7

Morning Birdwalk

9:00 TO 11:30 AM
See details page 13. Please call
805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, February 14

Garden Lovers Stroll

3:00 TO 5:30 PM
See details page 12. Please call
805.969.9990 to register.

Wednesday, February 18

Garden reopens after winter recess.

Friday, February 27

Premiere Opening

FLOCK: Birds on the Brink

4:00 TO 6:00 PM
Lotus Keeper members free
with reservation. Members \$65,
nonmembers \$85. Please call
805.969.3767 ext. 109 to register.

Saturday, March 7

John Marzluff

Welcome to Subirdia

Lecture and Book Signing

4:00 TO 6:00 PM
See details page 4. Please call
805.969.9990 to register.

Tuesday, March 10

Paulo Valerio

Birding "Hot Spots" of Costa Rica

4:00 TO 6:00 PM
See details page 4. Please call
805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, March 28

Scott Weidensaul

Living on the Wind: The Miracle

of Bird Migration

Lecture and Book Signing

4:00 TO 6:00 PM
See details page 4. Please call
805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, April 11

Linnea S. Hall and René Corado

The Beauty of Birds and Their Perils

2:30 TO 4:00 PM
See details page 4. 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 4. Please call
805.969.9990 to register.

Monday, April 18

Jeff Chemnick and Satie Airamé

Birders Travelogue of Belize, Bolivia and Ecuador

3:30 TO 5:00 PM
See details page 4. 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 4.
Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Tours

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