Exceptional Plants

THE PEOPLE AND PLANTS OF LOTUSLAND'S AUCTION & SALE BY PAUL MILLS AND GWEN STAUFFER



here else but Lotusland would you be able to purchase a Pseudobombax ellipticum, and a specimen with pink flowers nonetheless? Over the last five years, Exceptional Plants: Lotusland Auction and Sale has evolved into a signature event, becoming a gathering place for keen gardeners, landscape architects, plant experts, collectors and plant lovers to share an amazing day at Lotusland. We work behind the scenes for the entire year to make this event measure up to its name, Exceptional Plants, but even more, a plant sale in the sublime setting of Lotusland, offering many exclusive plants propagated from Lotusland's collections.

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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.



This is the flower of the Pseudobombax ellipticum donated by Jeff Chemnick.

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The success of this event is due to the passionate plant people who are involved, from guests and donors to our dedicated staff and volunteers. We could not produce this event without the Exceptional Plants Committee, comprised of renowned local plant experts who not only donate their time, but also donate special plants from their personal collections to the auction. They also reach out to their plant communities to attract people they know who share our zeal for incredible plants and encourage them to be plant donors and plant buyers at the event.

One of Lotusland's professional affiliates, Jeff Chemnick, is the chair of the committee. Additionally, he serves as auctioneer for the live auction. bringing a certain level of panache to this part of the afternoon. Jeff is known worldwide as a cycad expert and for his exceptional plant knowledge. He is a successful grower and collector of rare plants and has consistently donated some of the most outstanding specimens to the event. This year is no different with his donation of the rarely seen pink-flowered form of Pseudobombax ellipticum with its visually electrifying shaving brush flowers. Jeff writes, "I'm thrilled to have been involved with Lotusland's exciting rare plant auction since its inception five years ago. The botanical camaraderie, the chance to acquire fabulous specimens, the great plant party and all the while knowing

that it benefits Lotusland in so many ways is very gratifying. The *Exceptional Plants* event really is a who's who in the world of cutting-edge horticulture."

Cristi Walden was the first to raise her hand to be part of the auction committee. With her enthusiasm and energy, she has become an amazing ambassador for this event and for Lotusland. She shares her uncanny ability to bring a great network of people together for this event. Helping to manage her family's nursery, Sea Crest Nursery in Goleta, Cristi, along with her father and stepmother, lack and Charnee Stevenson, donate generously to Exceptional Plants. Cristi has a yearly allotment of material to donate, yet Lotusland receives the lion's share because, according to Cristi, "Lotusland is where my heart lies."

Cristi adds, "I am delighted to help with the Lotusland Exceptional Plants: Auction and Sale. Madame Walska was a client of my father's at Sea Crest Nursery. Part of our legacy is having cycads at Lotusland that Madame purchased from our nursery. This event is my favorite because it is so much fun to see all of the unique and rare plants, and it's entertaining to watch the plant geeks bidding on coveted new treasures for their gardens. I'm a geek, too! Many of our clients come from long distances, and it has become an annual event for them and their families."

The incomparable San Marcos Growers wholesale nursery in Goleta is run by Randy Baldwin, President and



A beautiful varigated Agave attenuata will be one of the many exceptional plants at this year's event.



This very rare cycad, a Dioon califanoi, will be available to the highest bidder.

General Manager, whose encyclopedic knowledge makes him an integral part of any plant-related event. We are honored to have Randy as a recent addition to this committee. His long relationship with Lotusland and integral work with the Lotusland Horticulture Committee allow him to have a keen understanding of the plant collections and what would catch people's interest at the event. In the past, he has donated such plants as the recently discovered living fossil, the Wollemi pine (Wollemia nobilis) of eastern Australia, and a varigated form of the ponytail palm (Beaucarnea recurvata), both of which were highly contested live auction items.

Robert Bett is CEO of PlantHaven International, which markets plants for some of the largest plant growers and breeders globally. Conducting trials of these new introductions, PlantHaven

helps breeders to identify and market their most winning plants. Lotusland is a lucky beneficiary of these introductions—the fall trials coincide perfectly with the preparation for the Exceptional Plants event. After the trials in early September, Robert gives us carte blanche to "come take whatever Lotusland wants for the garden or the auction." Be they amazing new taro (Colocasia esculenta) introductions, oneof-a-kind dahlias or extra floriferous salvias, PlantHaven's plants are always cause for heavy bidding.

Mike Tully, co-owner of Terra Sol, arguably the best retail nursery on the south coast, has a long history with Lotusland, starting as one of our first horticultural interns in the mid 1980s when Lotusland was transitioning from a private estate to public garden. With his plant knowledge and important input as a nurseryman, he brings invaluable experience to this event. As always, Mike has some stellar donations in store for this year's auction.

Last, but far from least, Tony Krock and his wife Holly are savvy and serious collectors of plants. They consistently donate some of the most unusual and spectacular plants for the event, often ending up in the live auction. "Holly and I always make sure to attend the Exceptional Plants auction at Lotusland. It makes for a great day with friends and fellow plant enthusiasts, and every year there are interesting and unexpected plants to appreciate. Plus it's a phenomenal opportunity to



These rare cycad specimens from Lotusland's nursery are Encephalartos latifrons X woodii (LEFT) and Encephalartos heenanii (кіснт).

wander the gardens at your own pace!"

These are but a few of all the incredibly knowledgeable and generous people who donate their time, expertise and plants to Lotusland's Exceptional *Plants* event and to our collections in the gardens. The number of people who come together for Exceptional Plants: Lotusland Auction and Sale is too many to mention, but they are equally responsible for the success of this ever-growing event that is solely dedicated to plants. All donors to Exceptional Plants will be recognized in our next newsletter.

Exceptional Plants: Lotusland Auction and Sale will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, October 7. Come join the fun of mingling with plant experts, enjoying delicious refreshments, engaging in some friendly bidding competition and possibly going home with an extraordinary botanical gem for your own garden.



The bidding at the silent auction tables can become spirited.



Board Members Crystal Wyatt and President Connie Pearcy with auctioneer Jeff Chemnick.

Letter from Chief Executive Officer

N SEPTEMBER 1993, Ganna Waska Lotusland opened its doors to guests for the first time. After persisting through 64 public hearings over nine years, Lotusland received a Conditional Use Permit from the County of Santa Barbara, allowing 5,000 visitors to the garden. Finally, community residents could enter and enjoy the legendary estate behind the pink walls to behold the beauty, whimsy and botanical treasures within it.

Next year, we will open the Cold Spring gates to guests for Lotusland's 25th season. This momentous milestone merits a 25th anniversary celebration to last all year long. Lotusland's Anniversary Committee is organizing the revelries, kicking off the 2018 tour season with the exhibit *Lotusland: Past, Present, Future*, featuring rare images of this estate as Tanglewood, Cuesta Linda and Lotusland, as well as personal items belonging to Madame Ganna Walska,

chronicling the history of Lotusland and honoring all those who helped create it.

The committee is also planning a year-long series of exclusive tours of spectacular private gardens that are rarely accessible. The 2018 *LotusFest* will be especially festive, and special programs and events will be held for you to enjoy throughout the year. We will have a few surprises, too.

As we prepare our anniversary celebration to commemorate the past, Lotusland's Board and staff are also looking to the future. A 5-Year Strategic Plan adopted in 2011 has successfully guided Lotusland's growth and evolution, but both our organization and the world in which we operate have changed in that time. Therefore, we have begun a new assessment of all aspects of our organization, including our challenges, risks and opportunities, and we will seek input from our many stakeholders, including you, to identify our most



Gwen Stauffer

critical needs and priorities, and develop an implementation plan to fulfill them. This new Strategic Plan that will steer our organization for the next five years will be unveiled in 2018, giving us another reason to celebrate!

Warmest regards, Gwen L. Stauffer

Lotusland Welcomes New Trustee Alexandra Morse



OTUSLAND IS HAPPY to announce that Alexandra Morse joined the Board of Trustees in August. Alexandra attended Briarcliff College and Parsons School of Design in New York, and owned and operated a design business for 45 years.

Along with her husband, Charlie, Alex spent most of her adult life in Seattle, where she was a member of the Seattle Garden Club. She served on the boards of Swedish Hospital Foundation, University of Washington Arboretum, ARCS (Achievement Rewards For College Scientists), a Contemporary Theater and Pacific Northwest Ballet, and she chaired numerous fund-raising parties and auctions.

Alex and Charlie recently moved to Carpinteria to be closer to their daughter and three grandchildren, who live in the Los Angeles area. Alex is a member of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara.

Docents Spearhead Japanese Garden Donations

HEN THE RENOVATION of the Japanese Garden began, more than \$21,300 was collectively contributed by current Lotusland docents in support of the Body & Spirit Campaign for the renovation of the Japanese Garden. Docent volunteers who spearheaded the effort include Herb Aldwinkle, James Cunningham, Larry Disharoon, Christine Gress, Joan Hazell, David Heinz, Cristi Walden and Dennis Whelan. A matching gift was made to inspire docents for the first \$10,000 pledged by Lotusland Chief Executive Officer Gwen Stauffer and her husband Mark Taylor.

Lotusland's Board of Trustees and staff extend our gratitude to our docents, who give so much to support the daily operations and visionary projects at Lotusland.



Dennis Whelan, James Cunningham, Joan Hazell, Larry Disharoon and Christine Gress.

Japanese Garden Renovation: Breaking Ground

HE DATE for the start of construction has finally arrived! On October 2, excavators will roll into the Japanese Garden to begin digging, grading and shaping the large reflecting pond in the center of the garden. The renovation will progress, literally, from the inside to the outside. The team from the firm Outside the Lines, who specialize in design and construction of water features, will oversee the excavation to prepare the reflecting pond for new plumbing and a liner. A new state-of-the-art biofiltration system will be installed after the plumbing is set in the pond. Some of the biofiltration equipment will be in the pond, but most of it, including pumps,

various filters, UV sterilizer and protein skimmer, will be housed in a large vault on the other side of the main drive. During the vault installation, we will close the main drive for a brief period and direct all visitors through the Epiphyllum Garden and Cycad Garden to access the rest of Lotusland.

We are able to start the project because of the incredible generosity of the LLWW Foundation who gave Lotusland a \$500,000 challenge grant to inspire more donors to give and help us finish the Japanese Garden Renovation Campaign. The challenge grant has helped us raise 75% of the campaign goal of \$4.6 million—the amount required by Lotusland's Board of Trustees to begin

construction in earnest. As construction gets underway, the Japanese Garden Renovation Campaign Committee is in the final push to raise the remaining 25%, or \$1,150,000. This is a fantastic time to support the project, as donors who give during the challenge will have their gifts doubled in value.

If you have not made a gift to the Japanese Garden Renovation project, now is the time to make your gift with double the impact. More than 125 donors have contributed to the project so far. In addition, two donors have given a total of \$300,000 to the Japanese Garden Endowment. We are deeply grateful for all of their support!

—Gwen Stauffer

Adopt a Lantern

INING THE MAIN DRIVE during the renovation of the Japanese Garden is Walska's exquisite and historic lantern collection, the *Ishi-Dōrō* of Lotusland. We sincerely thank Montecito Bank and Trust for their support as presenting sponsor of this exhibit. We also thank all of the individual donors for adopting a lantern, including Kate Dole and Bruce McGuire.

Kate and Bruce are plant people. Kate has known of Lotusland since childhood, having been raised in Santa Barbara. She first came to the garden as a teenager and visited before Lotusland opened to the public as a student in Santa Barbara City College's Environmental Horticulture program. As a landscape architect, Kate's work has been inspired by Lotusland. Bruce is an expert winemaker, practicing his craft at La Fond Winery and Santa Barbara Winery for several decades. They are admittedly addicted to plants and believe that working with plants (including grapes!) not only creates





The Ishi-Dōrō exhibit lit up for evening festivities.

beauty, but makes life more enjoyable. Kate and Bruce agree that Lotusland is a wonderland of beauty and science that must be preserved and maintained. To celebrate their love of Lotusland and support the Japanese Garden Renovation project, Bruce and Kate recently adopted a lantern, to be a part of this important project. They look forward to visiting their very own ishi-dōrō for the rest of their lives.

For more information about adopting a lantern or supporting the Japanese Garden Renovation project, please contact Rebecca Anderson, Director of Development, at 805.965.3767, ext. 104 or at randerson@lotusland.org.



LuAnn Daugherty with her husband Bill in their Auburn, California, rose garden in the late 1990s.

Daugherty Challenge Grant FOR FOURTH GRADE OUTREACH

RUSTEE BILL DAUGHERTY and his wife Alex have been involved in Lotusland Celebrates for many years. They have happy memories of working with Carol Valentine during the early years of Lotusland Celebrates. When it came time for them to think about participating in supporting this year's event, they wanted their giving to inspire others to help educate Lotusland's youngest visitors.

Bill and Alex decided to offer a matching gift to contributions made during Lotusland Celebrates: Avant Garden directed to underwrite the expenses for Lotusland's acclaimed Fourth Grade Outreach Program. Their generous

challenge grant was made in memory of Bill's mother, LuAnn Daugherty, who was a master gardener, rosarian and orchid grower. LuAnn was a long-time elementary and junior high school science teacher and enjoyed introducing young minds to the wonders of the plant kingdom. She admired the work of Lotusland's staff and volunteers and marveled in the wonders of its gardens.

We are confident LuAnn would be proud to know that this outstanding \$25,000 matching gift made in her honor was not only reached, but surpassed, bringing an additional \$33,000 in gifts to support the next generation of educators and scientists.

Lotusland Celebrates **AVANT GARDEN**

N JULY 29, 2017, Lotusland hosted its 23nd annual gala fundraiser Lotusland Celebrates: Avant Garden. Guests enjoyed VALENTINO fashions set against the stunning backdrop of Lotusland's gardens. The gala's goal was achieved with more than \$425,000 in net proceeds raised to support annual operation and programs at Lotusland.

Honorary Chair Jennifer Smith Hale brought exceptional style, elegance and creative vision to this year's event. Jennifer enlisted the house of VALENTINO to bring an Avant Garden selection of current fashions into

Lotusland's Water Garden, Topiary Garden and Cactus Garden.

Lotusland appreciates Jennifer and the incredible event Co-Chairs, Belle Hahn Cohen and Rachel Wryan, and the outstanding Lotusland Celebrates Committee: Oz Arconian, Krista Blake, Ebba Bonde Casas, Nydia Cardot, Jennie Grube, Analise Kjensrud, Amanda Lee, Marni Margerum, Suzanne Mathews, Jillian Muller, Setenay Osman, Connie Pearcy, Eileen Rasmussen, Amber Rouleau, Karina Schweitzer, Nati Smith, Daryl Stegall, Cate Stoll, Kim Thomas, Caroline Thompson, Crystal Wyatt,

Nancy Newman Zacky and Yasmine Zodeh. This powerful group of women created a unique and enchanting event.

Guests encountered special surprises along their garden odyssey, including rare vintage cars on loan from Andrea and Dana Newquist, beautiful Steinway & Sons Spirio pianos and showcased talent from across Santa Barbara's performing arts community—including singers from Opera Santa Barbara and stunning ballet dancers from State Street Ballet. Also on display was Avant Ganna, an exhibit in the transformed Sunken Drawing Room curated by Caroline Thompson, Lotusland Trustee and owner of Cabana Home, and Rose Thomas, Lotusland Research Associate. Avant Ganna showcased Ganna Walska's trendsetting fashion and costumes many on display for the first timeagainst a reimagined modern backdrop in Lotusland's Main House.

Italian-influenced Bonna Terra cocktails were served celebrating the beauty of Lotusland with earthy arugula, strawberries and Meyer lemons. Paired with gin, this Valentino-red martini greeted guests from the moment they arrived. duo Catering and Events paired cuisine and wine, from the delectable



The 2017 Lotusland Celebrates: Avant Garden Event Committee.

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Event Co-Chair Rachel Wryan with Honorary Chair Jennifer Smith Hale, guest Zoe Saldana, and Co-Chair & Trustee Belle Hahn Cohen.

Lotus Benefactor Lady Ridley-Tree and David Lacey.



Garden Patron, committee member and Lotusland Trustee Caroline Thompson with mural artist Colette Cosentino.

hors d'oeuvres offered throughout the tour to dinner served in an elegant out-door setting nestled by the Blue Garden. Wine was generously provided by Margerum Wines and Hilliard Bruce Vineyard. Cheurlin Champagne provided tableside service for the evening's top sponsors.

After the meal, guest auctioneer Eliza Osborne brought six one-of-a-kind items to the auction block, raising a tremendous \$147,000! Auction items included a striking ombre diamond-dusted triptych portrait of Ganna Walska created by internationally collected artist Russell Young; an incredible lotus-inspired aquamarine and diamond ring made for *Avant Garden* by craftsman Daniel Gibbings; and a black book offering in New York

City, including seven nights in a suite at the Lowell Hotel; and curated outings and activities, including a private cocktail party for ten where guests will explore the Belperron archives (one of Madame's favorite jewelers) at Verdura.

Following the live auction, docent James Cunningham explained Lotusland's impact on Santa Barbara County students through its acclaimed Fourth Grade Outreach Program, provided to the community at zero cost. Recent program participant Elena Thomas shared her personal learning and wonder from the opportunity to visit Lotusland and the audience was asked to help underwrite program expenses for 2017–18.

As the sun set, guests departed with the voice of Madame Ganna

Walska serenading their exit through the garden in one of the only known recordings of her singing voice. The finale of the night was a film reel playing Madame Walska's silent screen tests from the 1920s...an evocative ending for a spectacular evening!

The Lotusland Board of Trustees and Event Committee appreciates the generous support of all of the sponsors and guests and wishes to recognize our Lotus Leading Benefactor, The LLWW Foundation, and our incredible partners in Belmond, *C* Magazine, duo Catering & Events, Rrivre Works, Steinway & Sons and VALENTINO. We celebrate each sponsor, vendor, contributor and volunteer who helped make this year's event a triumph!

Continued on page 8



Lotus Fellows Alex and Eileen Rasmussen. Eileen is a Trustee and event committee member.



Lotus Partner Hania Tallmadge with her son, Mark Bacon.



Garden Patrons Jeannette & Christopher Hahn and Veronique Chevalier with a bromeliad-attired Eric Nagelmann.



Lotus Partner Anne Towbes with Garden Patrons Rita & Henry Hortenstine and Sandi Nicholson.



Lotus Fellow Lynda Weinman with committee member Nati Smith dressed in their colorful interpretations of the theme.

Continued from page 7 CORPORATE PARTNERS

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Lotus Fellows Dorothy & John Gardner with their guests Jane Radin Eagleton and Michael Benn. Dorothy is a Lotusland Trustee.

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Lotus Fellows Yasmine & Sam Zodeh with guests Nicole & Evan Katz. Yasmine is a Lotusland Trustee and event committee member.

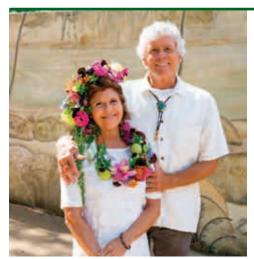
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Event committee member Stacy McMullan with her husband Harry.



William & Alexandra Daugherty in memory of LuAnn Daugherty

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in honor of Christopher Toomey

Lori Johnston

in memory of Bill Griffin



enjoyed Bonna Terra cocktails on the garden path.

Kristen & Sean Kennedy Jacquelyn Klein-Brown & Michael Trambert

in honor of Eileen & Alex Rasmussen Christine Larner

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Siri & Bob Marshall

Suzanne & Gilbert Mathews

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Bob & Val Montgomery

Alexandra Morse

Guillermo Nicolas

in honor of Suzanne & Gilbert Mathews

Mitchell Opalski

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Nancy & Tony Wall

in support of the Japanese Garden Renovation and in honor of Eileen & Alex Rasmussen



Champagne sponsor Isiah Thomas of Cheurlin Champagne with Lotus Fellow Bui Simon and guest Camilla Belle.



Event committee members Oz Arconian and Ebba Bonde Casas and guests showed their Avant Garden style.

Collections News

ANONYMOUS DONATION FOR FERN GARDEN

BOTANIC GARDENS are dynamic and always evolving, so staff must constantly think about planting for the future of the garden. In June of this year, an anonymous donor generously donated funds that allowed us to purchase 30 young Australian tree ferns (Cyathea cooperi), five Tasmanian tree ferns (Dicksonia antarctica) and one coast live oak (Quercus agrifolia).

As these plants grow, they will become the next generation of canopy



An anonymous donor provided the funds for thirty young Australian tree ferns (Cyathea cooperi).

in this shade-dependent garden. The coast live oak will replace one that was an important feature in the garden, but was toppled during a 1997–98 El Niño weather event. The oak is the new centerpiece of a vignette within the fern garden that includes maiden hair ferns and rocks. On one of the rocks grows the orchid *Laeliocattleya* Tropical Pointer 'Cheetah,' donated by Diane Dunhill.

LOTUSLAND DONATES RARE CYCAD TO MONTGOMERY BOTANICAL CENTER

COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN botanic gardens are crucial in aiding the survival of threatened species. In 2011, Lotusland produced seed of the rare African cycad, Encephalartos heenanii, which was the first instance of this having been successfully achieved in the United States. We then successfully germinated the seed to produce young plants. This cycad is critically endangered in the wild and some botanists believe it to be extinct in the wild. As part of Lotusland's global collaborative efforts, we shared a number of these plants with other botanic gardens. We are also making plans to repatriate some of these rare cycads back to their native



Lotusland donated an Encephelartos heenanii, a rare African cycad, to Montgomery Botanical Center.

South Africa in 2018, making this important genetic material available to a wider audience. Lotusland recently donated an *E. heenanii* to Montgomery Botanical Center (MBC) in Florida and received, in exchange, four small plants of the critically endangered Cuban cycad *Microcycas calocoma*, which had been produced from plants in their collections. MBC has one of the most important cycad collections in the country, but they lacked an *E. heenanii*, and Lotusland was thrilled to help them expand their collection.

Lotusland Welcomes Anna Bower Our New Assistant Curator

NNA GREW UP in Edmonds, Washington, and has been interested in gardening since she was a child. Anna says, "My first memory in the garden was when my mom gave me nasturtium seeds to plant wherever I wanted. I also enjoyed making "toad abodes" and slug houses in the yard and spending most of my time outside."

The Girl Scouts further introduced Anna to gardening projects. She and her sister adopted a window box garden at the visitor center in Edmonds, and they continued maintaining these collections of annuals for ten years. This led Anna to a position with the City of Edmonds

Parks Department where she worked in park beautification.

Anna went to Willamette University where she received a bachelor's degree in environmental science. Anna's experience includes a year at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania as a natural lands intern and a year at Longwood Gardens as a nursery management intern.

Her passion for plants continued and led her to the University of Delaware where she received a Master's degree in plant science, writing her thesis on "Prioritization of Living Collections at Public Gardens." This program is specifically aimed at training future botanic



garden curators. Concurrently with her studies, Anna served as the curator of the UD Botanic Gardens and as a teaching assistant.

Horticultural Happenings

BENEFICIAL INSECTS FOR THE JAPANESE GARDEN

LOTUSLAND STRIVES to have a balanced and robust ecology in all gardens. Insectary gardens, which are insect habitats, are strategically placed around the property to support a huge array of beneficial organisms that help keep our garden resilient and the ecology balanced. But during garden renovations, insectaries are sometimes temporarily removed, leaving areas of the garden susceptible to pests. Cultural conditions can radically change during renovations and cause stress to existing plants. For example, removal of trees allows more sun in a previously shaded garden and re-grading of soil around mature plants can disturb and damage roots. Both of these changes can lead to pest outbreaks. This is the current situation in the Japanese Garden, where trees have been removed and re-grading has begun.

This month, we are releasing three species of beneficial insects—pirate bugs (Orius), spined soldier bug (Podisus) and lacewing (Chrysoperla)—in the Japanese Garden to combat elm leaf beetles that chew "shot" holes in leaves of the American elm (Ulmus americana) and thrips, which produce huge populations that congregate to suck the plant juices from the historic Japanese cedars (Cryptomeria japonica), turning the foliage silvery-gray and finally killing it.

Although pirate bugs (*Orius*) appear to have preferences for particular prey, they are general predators and will consume a variety of pests including mites, thrips, aphids and small caterpillars. The spined soldier bug (*Podisus maculiventris*) is a predatory stink bug native to North America and can be found from



Pirate bug (Orius) feeding on whitefly nymphs.

Quebec to Florida, from New England to the Pacific. It is a "generalist" and can feed on over 100 different types of prey, primarily the larvae of beetles and moths. Larvae of lacewing (Chrysoperla rufilabris) feed on a wide variety of softbodied arthropods including many aphid species, caterpillars, insect eggs, spiders and mites. These are annual pests that are normally kept in check, but with major cultural changes during renovation, they have an opportunity to grow out of control.

We also coat many of the plants with a natural sugar-based attractant to bring in beneficial insects that pass through. Many pest species produce sugar while feeding, and applying a sugar-based attractant to plants tricks predatory insects into searching for prey. Trees under attack by pests give off strong chemical messages from their leaves and stems. Wintergreen oil mimics this chemical message, so we add it to the sugar-based attractant to further entice beneficial insects to the area.

Through long, elaborate, concerted efforts—including creation of more beneficial insect habitat, modification of horticultural techniques, release of additional beneficial insect species and use of attractants—we harness ecology to act in a timely manner and keep our precious garden safe. —Corey Welles

SUSTAINABLE PLANT HEALTHCARE INTERN MARSHALL STYMER

I WOULD LIKE to express my sincere appreciation for the support from Mr. Arthur R. Gaudi and the John Percival and Mary C. Jefferson Endowment Fund for making the Sustainable Plant Healthcare internship possible. Your generosity has allowed me to live and work at the beautiful Ganna Walska Lotusland, where I was given the opportunity to learn more about horticulture and plant health. This experience has exposed me to the physical hands-on training that, until this internship, I spent my collegiate years only learning about.

I worked closely with Plant Healthcare Coordinator Corey Welles, who served as my mentor and supervisor. He taught me everything he could about soil biology, pollinators, native plant species and composting practices. He also gave me an opportunity to demonstrate my pruning and irrigation skills.

In addition to broadening my skill sets within the gardens, I was particularly pleased with the people I met through my internship. I enjoyed getting to work alongside the gardeners and volunteers in all the gardens at Lotusland. I had opportunities to become more familiar with rare species of plants and the care they required. Many of the plants at Lotusland do not exist naturally within the Mediterranean climate of southern California; therefore, pruning practices, watering, soil content and other maintenance systems would vary and need to be adapted to mimic a more natural ecosystem. The staff was knowledgeable and acted as a great resource for me to ask questions. Likewise, the Lotusland community provided the opportunity to learn about other horticulture-themed careers. A memorable visit to the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate granted me the chance to learn more about plant breeding and genetics that help them adapt for desirable plant behaviors.

I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to partake of such a prestigious internship. Coming into this with a nonspecific future career path has solidified my desire to continue working in like-minded botanical gardens that focus on plant and ecological sustainability. As hard as it will be to leave this magnificent place, I am incredibly grateful that I was selected to participate in this internship because of the doors it has opened for me. I hope to return to Lotusland one day and be able to give back and support the establishment as you have done. -Marshall Stymer



Marshall Stymer spent the summer at Lotusland as this year's Sustainable Plant Healthcare intern.







Gifts for the Garden YOUR SUPPORT SUSTAINS LOTUSLAND

OTUSIAND IS MAGICAL—it lifts our spirits, rebalances our sensibilities, inspires our minds, and soothes our tired souls. Each Lotusland garden is unique and each has its own story. The Cycad Garden is a story of conservation and endangered plants that are rapidly disappearing around the world. The Blue Garden is a story of plant adaptation that is key to the curriculum for our Fourth Grade Outreach Program, which teaches thousands of Santa Barbara County's children about the importance of plant habitat and conservation.

All the gardens tell the powerful story of Madame Walska's commitment to "developing Lotusland to its maximum capacity as the most outstanding center of horticultural significance and educational use."

On each visit to Lotusland, we see something different, as the garden tells us new stories every day. Lotusland's nationally recognized sustainable horticulture program provides real solutions to maintaining beautiful toxin-free gardens. This amazing garden teaches and inspires everyone who visits—from first-time visitors and school children to horticulturists and life-long members.

Ganna Walska created a very personal masterpiece and generously donated it to the community. We rely upon you to sustain Lotusland for the future. By making a gift to the garden you are making a gift to our community.

This is the time of year when we turn to you, our friends and members, for support. You will soon receive our Gifts for the Garden appeal.

Please respond by making a taxdeductible gift to ensure our beautiful gardens, excellent educational programs and diverse collections are maintained at our high standards and continue to improve.

For more information, and to make your gift today, visit www.lotusland.org.

New Employees

AS WE EMBARK ON ANOTHER EXCITING YEAR, LOTUSLAND IS PLEASED TO WELCOME NEW FACES TO OUR STAFF

MARK HEPLER GATE MANAGER



MARK GREW UP in Delaware where he enjoyed playing football, basketball and baseball. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Delaware, and after college, Mark taught communications at Delaware Community College. Mark worked at W.L.Gore & Associates for 35 years in their outdoor apparel and footwear division, travelling often to Asia to direct their manufacturing operations. He transitioned to sales and marketing in North America before joining L.L. Bean. Mark and his wife, Diane Davidson retired and relocated to East Beach in Santa Barbara. He recently began working part time at Lotusland.

PAT MILLER VISITOR SERVICES RESERVATION ASSOCIATE



PAT CAME TO Lotusland with a hospitality background where she organized meetings and travel logistics. She was with the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company

for five years in the Meetings & Events department. While working and living in Pinehurst, NC, she developed her love of golf as a member of the local Executive Women's Golf Association. Her free time is often spent with her son, daughter-in-law and their three amazing children. You can often find Pat at the movies and loving the sunshine of Santa Barbara, as she originally hails from Minneapolis and is happy to have those cold winters behind her.

ALEXIS SIMENTALESFRONT DESK COORDINATOR



ALEXIS WAS BORN and raised in Santa Barbara and graduated from San Marcos High School. One of her many interests in life is dancing Flamenco. She has been dancing since the age of three and was chosen in 2016 as the "Spirit of Fiesta." In this role, Alexis served as a role model and a goodwill ambassador and performed at many of Santa Barbara's signature Fiesta celebrations. She is currently studying business administration at Santa Barbara City College and will further her academic career at California State University Channel Islands upon graduation.

SARAH McDANIEL GARDENER

SARAH IS ORIGINALLY from Tucson, AZ, and has had a strong love of horticulture her whole life, including a background in floral design and organic farming. Sarah received a Certificate of Horticulture from Kew Royal Botanic Gardens in the United Kingdom. She



also worked for a tea company in Japan where she helped implement several organic farming techniques while living in the rural town of Wazuka nestled in the mountains between Osaka and Kyoto. Sarah says that she is "so excited to be a part of the Japanese Garden Restoration Project at Lotusland."

RICHIE JAIMES FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT



RICHIE IS ALSO a native Santa Barbaran and graduated from Santa Barbara High School. Richie brings to Lotusland 10 years of experience as an accomplished carpenter, working in all aspects of the trade. He previously worked with the City of Santa Barbara with a focus on concrete for the streets department. With much of Lotusland's infrastructure nearing its 100th birthday, Richie's wealth of experience and know-how is invaluable as we are in a constant state of rebuilding and repair. Richie enjoys spending his free time with his five-year-old daughter.

Lotusland in the Community

UN IN THE SUN is a six-week summer learning program sponsored by the United Way for local academically and financially at-risk children and families. It is Santa Barbara County's oldest and largest public/ private partnership dedicated to longterm improvement in the lives of low-income children and families. The program directly addresses summer learning loss and the achievement gap between low-income students and their middle/upper-income peers. Fun in the Sun (FITS) does this through hands-on project-based lessons, utilizing the best services and ideas from more than 70 local public and private organizations.

In 2016, 98% of the participants maintained or displayed gains in their literacy skills, according to pre and post assessments. FITS's results have been so

extraordinary that in 2012, FITS was named winner of the 2012 National Excellence in Summer Learning Award by the National Summer Learning Association, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University and leading research body on summer learning loss and its effect on the achievement gap.

This summer, Lotusland provided the incoming 4th through 6th grade students participating in the Fun in the Sun program at La Patera School with the opportunity to learn about life science, photosynthesis and botany in the classroom and here in Lotusland's garden. For the incoming 4th grade students, it provided a first look at what they will learn when they start their 2017/2018 academic school year in August. The 5th and 6th grade students had the opportunity to review what



Students from the Fun in the Sun program, sponsored by the United Way, visited Lotusland this summer.

they had experienced in the Fourth Grade Outreach Program and expand their vocabulary and scientific field work.

Lotusland believes in education and strongly supports our community by providing both classroom and field education for a unique and memorable learning experience. —Dorothy Shaner

Members and Their Benefits

HIS YEAR, for the first time since 2010, we modified the benefits and pricing on our membership program, and we are grateful for your positive response as you recognized the value in continuing to support Lotusland. Our members play a key role in the financial well-being of the garden, and your continued generosity combined with all the new households and many who decided to increase their levels of membership help to guarantee the preservation of this 37-acre botanical treasure.

We are grateful for all of our members who believe in our mission



Free educational Focus Tours are open to all Garden Lover members.

and enjoy sharing the magnificent surroundings of Lotusland with their friends—many of whom end up joining as well. Sharing Lotusland with friends is a magical experience, and the gift of a year-long membership is gratifying both philanthropically and emotionally.

Here are some highlights of the benefits of becoming more involved at higher levels of membership. The Family level allows you to bring your children or grandchildren (age 17 and under) when you visit the garden. Increase to the Friend level and take advantage of three one-time-use guest admissions (these are tax deductible), attend a variety of free Monday morning educational classes where our docents learn more about the fascinating history, horticulture and lore of Lotusland. Increase to any of the Garden Lover levels for exclusive opportunities! Each Garden Lover level gains varying benefits but all Garden Lovers receive advance invitations to the always sold-out Lotusland Celebrates gala plus mailed invitations to our opening receptions of art exhibitions, the free educational Focus Tour lecture and reception series and the intimate farm-to-table-style dinners that celebrate food and wine



Family-level members and above may bring children or grandchildren to Lotusland.

with the unique opportunity to experience a gastronomical feast in the garden at sunset.

As Lotusland enters into our 25th anniversary year, we want to express our appreciation to all our members—old and new—for loving Lotusland! Come and join us often in 2018.



Garden Lover members receive invitations to our intimate farm-to-table dinners in the garden.



Kathy Hulick

HE FASCINATING LIFE of Madame Ganna Walska provided the inspiration and encouragement for Kathy to join the docent training class of 2012.

The in-depth docent training program made it possible for Kathy to learn all about Lotusland's gardens while she also discovered more about the fascinating and complex personality that was behind Madame's creative ideas. Kathy enjoyed learning about sustainable gardening, conservation and organic materials used in the garden. She has also met many interesting and

Volunteer Profile: Kathy Hulick

friendly people who work and volunteer at Lotusland.

The Japanese Garden is Kathy's favorite. She loves its deep spiritual history, its beauty and its serenity. Kathy has a passion for research, and through her hard work and perseverance, she has discovered numerous never-beforeseen photos of Ganna Walska, many of which she purchased and generously donated to our archives. She was instrumental in republishing *Always Room at the Top* and a huge asset in researching and creating the *Ishi-Dōrō of Lotusland* guide book.

Before moving to Santa Barbara in 1980, Kathy lived in Barbados for six and a half years. She worked with the Peace Corps as a dental hygienist and later as a teacher training others on the island. Kathy developed a love of flowers while living in the tropics. Her father was an avid gardener, and her grandmother had a passion for roses that Kathy seems to have inherited. The water restrictions in Santa Barbara have created some gardening challenges, but her 11 pots of drought-tolerant plumerias

have proven to be excellent choices to adorn her garden with a variety of colors and sizes.

Kathy is an avid student of religion and beliefs, from Pagan to early Gnostic, Christianity and Eastern beliefs. She has amassed a small home library devoted to her studies. Kathy volunteers at the Vedanta bookstore every Thursday and is also their jewelry buyer. She is part of a group from Vedanta that regularly meets to discuss religion and history.

In 1990, Kathy and a close friend friend embarked on a 28-day winter trek in Nepal to learn from and be among these amazing people while also visiting their beautiful mountain villages.

Kathy is a docent every Wednesday afternoon, volunteers at our special events and works in our archives researching Ganna Walska's amazing life story. After being at Lotusland for more than five years, Kathy says she has developed a strong belief that we are stewards of this planet and teaching others the importance of preservation and carrying on Ganna Walska's legacy is very rewarding.

Help Make Lotusland's Wishes Come True

SPRAY RIG FOR COMPOST TEA REARS MODEL PLR 100

OUR EXISTING EQUIPMENT is aging and in need of constant and costly repairs. This new rig will increase efficiency and be a more reliable piece of equipment for the garden staff. It will help us spray compost tea for years to come. \$6,600.



GOLF CART: 50% FUNDED

WE HAVE SO FAR raised half of the \$10,800 needed to purchase a replacement cart. This will allow Lotusland to more fully serve the needs of our mobility challenged members and guests with improved safety and reliability. \$6,000 will fully fund the purchase of a new cart.

O DONATE, please contact Rebecca Anderson, Director of Development, at 805.969.3767, ext. 104 or randerson@lotusland.org. Thank you so much to our generous members who support our Wish List items—it makes such a big difference in our day-to-day operations, and we are very grateful.



Exceptional Plants

LOTUSLAND AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 • 1:30 TO 5:30 PM



OIN US FOR THE sixth annual spectacular plant lover's event—*Exceptional Plants: Lotusland Auction and Sale.* A truly exceptional day on the lawn at Lotusland features rare and specimen plants in an extensive silent auction; for a grand finale, there is a rousing live auction.

The region's top plant aficionados, collectors, serious gardeners and those who come out just for a great party all congregate to enjoy camaraderie, great food, specialty cocktails and an idyllic setting. Auctioneer Jeff Chemnick provides a lively commentary on the many rare and fascinating plants, many grown right here at Lotusland. See a listing of the exceptional plants at lotusland.org.

Come for the plants, stay for the party! Members \$65; non-members \$90. Please call 805.969.9990.

The Spirit of Lotusland

A COCKTAIL COMPETITION INSPIRED BY THE GARDEN!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 • 3:00 TO 5:00 PM

TROLL THROUGH LOTUSLAND while enjoying creative cocktails paired to each garden by six of California's most creative mixologists.

Guests will enjoy each entrant's elixir in a spirited journey through Madame Walska's most popular gardens to see who can create the best Spirit of Lotusland cocktail.

Must be 21 years of age to attend. Cost is \$95 members; \$105 non-members, and reservations are required. Please call 805.969.9990.





Members' Holiday in the Garden

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

NJOY THE GARDEN in the glory of autumn with a docent or on a self-guided tour. Afterward, shop exclusive Lotusland gifts and treasures in the Garden Shop. Guests are welcome when accompanied by a member (*Garden Lover* members need not accompany guests).

Space is limited. There is a \$15 fee for valet parking, to allow as many members as possible to enjoy this morning in the garden.

Please call 805.969.9990 for reservations.

Guest admissions are: adults, \$48; children ages 3–17, \$24; children ages 2 and under, free. Friend and *Garden Lover* members may use available free guest admissions.

Gift Giving Made Easy at the Garden Shop

HIS HOLIDAY SEASON find a unique garden-inspired gift at our online store. We make your shopping experience pleasurable while you help support Lotusland. We ship your gift anywhere in the United States—it's easy and secure. Enjoy free shipping on all jewelry.

Visit Lotuslandshop.org or click on the store link on our website. Here are just a few of the hundreds of gifts that are available.



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GUARDIAN

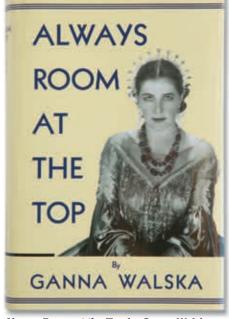
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Garden Gnome. This handsome and happy Garden Gnome is the perfect addition to your magical garden. He is cast from durable AND weather-proof concrete and stands 9½" tall. \$14.



Slag Glass. Slag Glass borders many of the garden pathways at Lotusland. Each piece is unique and the approximate dimensions are 8"x6"x3". \$20.



Always Room at the Top by Ganna Walska. The perfect gift for someone who loves everything about Madame. \$35 and free shipping.



2018 Lotusland Calendar. Enjoy thirteen months of garden imagery all year long. \$15.

Members Who Have Increased Their Level of Support

JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2017

GARDEN LOVERS GUARDIAN

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Courtney Miller Colleen Taylor & Melissa Ahrens Ms. Mary Maguire

DUAL

Linda & Richard Boyd

Lotusland Members

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2017

GARDEN LOVERS

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Katherine Kims & Eric Ng

CULTIVATOR

Todd Drevo & Melanie Cava Laura Lewis & Kevin O'Connor Madeline Stuart & Steve Oney Anonymous

ADVOCATE

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Christine Bruce & John Hilliard
Inna & Jeffrey Cook
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Jessica Foster
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Evangeline Kochanek & Nathanael Chawkin
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Karyn & Stuart Grossman
Suzanne Hampton
Julie & Tobias Hollerer
Elizabeth & David Jacobs
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Kassie McMenamin-Torres & Ralph Torres

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Eric & Liz Einwiller
Teresa Elconin & Katherine Elconin-Donoho
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Ivory Madison & Abraham Mertens

Kathy McBride & Nancy Hill Matthew & Rebecca Pifer Christine Pillsbury Christina Pitcher & Steve Wong Peggy & Zed Reagan Ghavam Shahidi & Mahfhid Nasseri

continued on page 19

Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2017

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Sherri Ball & Champi Mohottige Carol Ann & Moise Emquies Mr. and Mrs. Charles Farish Lisa & Mark Hutchins Masha & Kevin Keating Ms. Judith A. Little Tony Nodine & Stoney Gamble

THE LOTUS SOCIETY ENDOWMENT

NEW MEMBERS

David & Christine Gress Ms. Cristi Walden in memory of Leslie Stevenson

GRANTS

HORTICULTURE WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

Ted & Coleen Friedel

FOURTH GRADE OUTREACH PROGRAM

Brian & Patty Herman Nancy & John Vasi

MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS

Chevron Matching Employee Program
directed by Jeffrey E. Romano
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Renewing Garden Lover Members JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2017

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Ms. Jane Gail Copelan
Ms. Lucy Doheny
Tracie Doordan & Kate Doordan Klavan
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce I. Drucker
Julia Emerson & Ellie Maldonado
Daniel Gibbings

Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Ginny Guess Dr. Renée Harwick Stephen & Dee Jones Mr. Dennis I. Jurcak Soren & Kim Kieler Steven Kleiman & Helen Bradley Jeffrey Light & Christine Wong Marni & Doug Margerum Diane & Dan Mead Ms. Barbara Nagle Statler Adell & Loi Nguyen Jane & Paul Orfalea Eliza Osborne Setenay & David Osman Sarah & Moses Romo Linda & Dennis Sullivan Mr. & Mrs. Michael Thompson Ashley & Mandy Transki Patricia J. Van Every Dr. Mark & Ann Vuchinich Edward & Grace Yoon Jules M. Zimmer & Carolyn Cogan



695 Ashley Road Santa Barbara, CA 93108

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Fall 2017 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, October 7

Exceptional Plants: Lotusland Auction and Sale 1:30 TO 5:30 PM See details on page 16. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, October 28

The Spirit of Lotusland:
A Cocktail Competition
Like No Other!
3:00 TO 5:00 PM
See details on page 16. Please call
805.969.9990 to register.

Wednesday, November 15

Last day of regular tours before the garden reopens Friday, February 16, 2018.

Saturday, November 25

Members' Holiday in the Garden 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM See details on page 16. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Arrival Times for Members

AM Visit: Gate opens at 9:30 and closes at 10:00 AM.

PM Visit: Gate opens at 1:00 and closes at 1:30 PM.

Call 805.969.9990 for reservations.