Lotusland’s Nursery: Where the Future Happens

BY PAUL MILLS

The nursery at Lotusland is where the future happens and the next generation of plants is started. Nursery operations are one of the many crucial behind-the-scenes operations at Lotusland. Our globally important plant collections rely on the nursery as a fundamental pillar of support for building and caring for these collections. The nursery supports many diverse aspects of Lotusland operations, including producing plants for the gift shop and for the Fourth Grade Outreach Program; acting as a hospital for declining plants from the collections; and introducing new plants to the garden. They also manage much of the extraordinary Exceptional Plants: Lotusland Auction & Sale event, to be held this year on Saturday, October 7.

It’s hard to be sure what existed at Lotusland in the way of a nursery when Madame Ganna Walska bought the property in 1941. There are remnants of

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The greenhouse at Lotusland is the backbone of nursery operations. Housed in this climate-controlled environment are plants in varying stages of development from sprouting seeds to plants ready for the garden.

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ONE OF THE MOST SATISFYING WAYS TO DONATE
Encephalartos seedlings destined for the Garden Shop.

Mission Statement

We preserve and enhance the unique historic estate of Madame Ganna Walska, care for and improve its collections, and develop its conservation and horticulture programs, so they educate us, inspire us, and advance our understanding and appreciation of the importance of plants in our lives and in the life of the planet.
Lotusland’s nursery provides succulents that are given to the students who visit with the Fourth Grade Outreach Program.

Lotusland has been part of two joint cycad collecting trips to Mexico with MBC and Mexican institutions in 2001 to collect plants of Ceratozamia and in 2004 to collect seed of Dioon. Plants and seeds are treated differently upon arrival, but they were nurtured in the nursery for years until they could be incorporated into the cycad garden.

In 2011, the nursery at Lotusland produced seed of the critically endangered cycad Encephalartos heenanii for the first time ever in the United States—one of our nursery’s greatest accomplishments to date. So far one plant has been shared with the University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley, and we plan to share one with MBC in the near future. We are in conversations with colleagues in South Africa about repatriating some of these plants to the wild.

In 2011, thanks to a generous donation from Lotusland benefactor Paul Glenn, three individuals of a critically endangered South African cycad were purchased from Kirstenbosch as part of a species survival program where the money from the purchase of these plants will directly benefit the plant in the wild. These plants are being grown in the nursery until they are large enough to go into the garden.

Another important collaboration is with the Montgomery Botanical Center (MBC) in Florida. MBC is known for its extensive research on palms and cycads with the majority of its plant collections consisting of wild collected material. Lotusland has received a number of palm and cycad seeds over the years from MBC including Zombia antillarum, the zombie palm, and Copernicia alba, the Caranday wax palm, which were grown in the nursery and are now on display in the Palmetum.

Recently, we received seed from Montgomery Botanical Center of Zamia integrifolia, which is the only cycad native to the United States, with a range that stretches from Florida, south into the Caribbean. Although not new to our collections, what is interesting about this seed is that it came from the northwesterly most limit of the range of this species in Taylor County, Florida, near the Panhandle.

Plants with known provenance, or field collection data, provide the most scientific, educational and conservation value to botanic garden collections. Lotusland has been part of two joint cycad collecting trips to Mexico with MBC and Mexican institutions in 2001 to collect plants of Ceratozamia and in 2004 to collect seed of Dioon. Plants and seeds are treated differently upon arrival, but they were nurtured in the nursery for years until they could be incorporated into the cycad garden.

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The role of a botanic garden will always be that of a place for pleasure and relaxation, but plant conservation depends on botanic gardens, and botanic gardens depend on their nurseries to help safeguard global plant diversity.
Some of my earliest childhood memories are of favorite plants growing in my father’s garden in southeast Pennsylvania. Red tulips with yellow and black starry centers lit up the front garden and astonished me by how they opened with the warmth of day, then closed at night as if going to sleep with me. Outside the dining room, a tall lilac bloomed, filling the house with heady fragrance when my mother opened the windows to let in fresh spring air. Bridal wreath spiraea, otherwise an untidy plant, was gloriously covered in lacy white flowers, once again confirming the right to its fanciful moniker. A huge Baldwin apple tree, climbed by siblings competing for the highest branches, produced fruit with perfect crunch and sweet-tart balance. All those plants in my childhood yard are now gone. The memories are not, of course, and I admit my nostalgia for them. My experience with those plants was part of the foundation for the person I would come to be, and, frankly, I am much more excited about the potential for rebirth. There is very little that amazes me more than how a shriveled, dried-up seed can become a vital, living organism. From the tiny acorn comes the mighty oak. But even the mighty oak—and our majestic Monterey cypress—is not immune to time and will succumb to old age, producing its last seeds that germinate into seedlings to fill the space it leaves behind. Birth and death complete the eternal cycle of life, and this cycle exists absolutely and relentlessly in a garden.

The concept of change in a historic garden is confounding. One would think that a historic garden should be held in stasis—preserved to look like it always had. It is possible to achieve this end, but not by doing nothing. Only when we can accept the inevitable change that naturally occurs in a garden—made up of living and eventually dying organisms—are we prepared to take the appropriate steps to preserve it. In Europe, where historic gardens are centuries old, trees and other plantings have been replaced many times over. Lotusland, at only 135 years old, is just experiencing the end of the life cycle for many of our trees and garden plants, for the first time.

Renovation, restoration and replacement are effective methods, or “treatments,” for achieving preservation. Sometimes we must take a garden apart and put it back together again—prudently and respectfully—to preserve the garden while also meeting our community’s modern needs. As a public garden, we must provide equal accessibility accommodation for all visitors, regardless of our historic status. We look to the past while we act for the future to ensure that Ganna Walska’s Lotusland will always be here, for everyone, for generations to come.

With warmest regards,

Gwen L. Stauffer

Lotusland Featured in Garden Design Magazine

The Winter 2017 issue of Garden Design featured “Lessons from Lotusland.” The photographically rich 12-page essay describes the garden this way: “A botanical treasure holds keys to creating a more creative, playful and personal garden.”

We were happy to host the magazine’s amazing photographer Ngoc Minh Ngo, who did a brilliant job of capturing the garden. Meg Ryan researched and wrote the story and artfully blended the garden’s history with all the key elements that make Lotusland such a gem today.

Lotusland appeared in the publication as part of their ongoing “Great Garden” series.
Horticultural Happenings

LOTUSLAND ROSES
FEEDING TIME IN THE ROSE GARDEN

Spring is fertilizing time and feeding is on every rose lover’s mind. It’s easy to get excited knowing those gorgeous flowers are on their way in just a few weeks. First we must determine the best organic fertilizer for the garden. At Lotusland, we do everything possible to keep the roses blooming and the soil alive by feeding the plants healthy organic materials like alfalfa, fish and kelp. Soil organisms recognize these natural materials, consume them and convert them into usable nutrients. It’s these organisms in the soil that best orchestrate rose feeding. Without robust soil ecology and organic inputs, the roses would have to be fed with chemicals every couple of weeks. Chemical fertilizers bypass much of the natural process and actually bleach the soil, reducing its life. You may get a big push of growth using chemicals, but bugs and disease are likely to follow. Organic fertilizers and the associated microbes evenly feed the roses throughout the entire year, strengthening the roots and leaves and producing strong luxurious plants. Fine-textured mulch is applied over the organic fertilizer twice a year to seal in the moisture, allowing worms and other organisms to move around the root zone. Having a complete program for rose feeding and soil ecology that is performed once in spring and again in late summer makes rose gardening more manageable and creates a truly sustainable rose bed.

—Corey Welles

FIXTURES IN THE GARDEN

Mike Furner’s and Bruno Reginato’s tenure is more than seven decades of working at Lotusland, both having been in the garden when Ganna Walksa was living.

Mike started in 1977 and was originally hired to move numerous cycads including the awesome responsibility of transplanting the three precious Encephalartos woodii. He says he “made the biggest root balls he could think of and thank goodness Madame liked where they were planted.” Mike has worked in almost every capacity in the garden and can now be found nurturing and caring for his beloved bromeliads, on which he has developed an expert’s warehouse of knowledge.

Bruno Reginato began working at Lotusland in 1979, brought on board by his uncle, longtime Lotusland gardener Mario Franceschini, which gives him the status of being second generation in the garden. Bruno has worked in nearly every garden on the property. In addition to contributing to all team projects, he focuses on the Dracaena Circle and the courtyard in front of the house.

When you see Mike or Bruno in the garden, after congratulating them on their amazing careers at Lotusland, ask them if they might share with you a Madame story from years gone by.

Lotusland is grateful for their extraordinary dedication and is fortunate not only for their horticulture expertise, but for their vital link to the history and lore that make this garden so magnificent.

Mike Furner and Bruno Reginato combine for more than seven decades in the garden.

A healthy rose produces more blooms and is better equipped to ward off pathogens.
The Golden Fuchsia

In 1976, while studying the flora of Chiapas, Mexico, Dennis Breedlove of the California Academy of Sciences came across a group of plants with vivid gold flowers that he had not previously seen in his travels. He referred to it as “unknown Rubiaceae” until 11 years later when, together with David Lorence of the University of Hawaii, he described it as a new species called Deppea splendens.

One year prior to formally describing the species, Mr. Breedlove returned to the site where the plant had been collected only to find it converted to agriculture. Having been the only known stand of Deppea splendens, it was believed to be extinct in the wild. Seed had been collected and distributed, but only seven individuals (clones) were known to exist in 2000, three of which were propagated and distributed by Pacific Plant Promotions, which is a collaboration between the Huntington Botanic Garden, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and Pacific Horticulture. Mildred E. Mathias Botanic Garden at UCLA went on to produce seed by cross pollinating the individual plants, and there is hope that some of these plants can be used for reintroduction of D. splendens into its native habitat.

The genus Deppea is relatively small with about 25 species that are found in the American tropics from southern Mexico to Brazil. D. splendens, or golden fuchsia, is a highly ornamental plant that is not actually related to fuchsias, but its pendant flowers with petals that recurve at the tip very much resemble those of fuchsias.

A native of the cloud forests of Chiapas, this mountain dweller is well suited to coastal California’s cool climate, wanting some cover to protect from hotter mid-day sun and drying winds. Look for Deppea splendens in the Fern Garden this spring. —Paul Mills

Lotusland Welcomes 18 New Docents

Lotusland recently graduated 18 new docents. After completing a rigorous 10-week course of study, this group of dedicated and enthusiastic individuals is ready to lead tours, interpret the exotic plant collections and share the fascinating history of the garden. The extensive docent training program provides top-notch lectures, guest speakers, classes and training over a four-month period.

Our next docent training program begins in September 2017. For more information, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Kitty Thomassin at 805.969.3767 ext. 112.
Virginia Hayes Retires

Virginia Hayes, Curator of the Living Collection, retired this spring after a remarkable career at Lotusland that spanned 25 years. Building on a Master’s degree in Evolutionary Biology from the University of California Santa Barbara (of course with an emphasis on the lotus—Nelumbo nucifera), her life’s accomplishments are prodigious;

Virginia’s highest curatorial priorities were to expand and preserve the amazing historic collections, and the international recognition that has been bestowed on Lotusland is to some degree the result of her work. She has represented Lotusland at International Conferences on Cycad Biology in Australia, Mexico, Panama, China and Vietnam and at the 1998 Botanic Gardens Conservation International Congress in Capetown, South Africa.

Virginia is a prolific writer. She has authored articles in every Lotusland Newsletter for the past 25 years, contributed to the publication of numerous books including Ganna Walska Lotusland Collections and Horticulture, co-authored with Steven Timbrook, and The Garden Gourmet, an organic gardening book published by Barron’s. She has written for Pacific Horticulture, hundreds of columns for the Santa Barbara Independent dating back to 1999 and the list goes on.

Virginia started at Lotusland in 1992. Her encyclopedic knowledge was daunting, and many wondered how could they ever do justice to the garden the way Virginia does. In her always calm, reassuring way, she would simply advise, “Let the garden speak for itself.”

Executive Director Gwen Stauffer describes Virginia’s contributions this way: “She applied her incredible knowledge of plants to build these outstanding collections, and her passion for sharing her knowledge with others helped make Lotusland an important resource both locally and internationally.”

Virginia was the go-to person to show the garden to influential visitors. Martha Stewart was charmed to such a degree that Lotusland was featured on the cover of her magazine. Anne Dewey, who worked with Virginia for 25 years, shared the story of a visit by the Royal Family of Qatar for what, at their request, was to be a 45-minute tour. When Virginia returned, three hours later, she had the entire group laughing, asking endless questions and impressed to the degree that they made a very generous donation.

Virginia’s neighbor and co-worker for 25 years, Mike Iven, held Virginia in the highest regard. “Virginia’s plant expertise was an invaluable asset to all programs and just as important was her knowledge of Ganna Walska and Lotusland’s history. Her input was critical as the staff worked to develop a healthy, site-specific horticultural program while remaining true to Madame’s creation and vision.”

Virginia’s research and archival examination of the life of Ganna Walska benefited the organization by providing a more insightful understanding of the intellectual power and passions behind our original benefactor. Madame’s unique personality and remarkable life story were things she absorbed, studied and perhaps even embodied to a degree, by living in a small house in Madame’s treasured garden for more than two decades.

Lotusland Research Associate Jeff Chemnick speaks of “Virginia’s impeccable reputation and her comforting “Mother Earth” aura, which assured everyone that everything was going to be alright. She was always striving to protect the integrity of the gardens, the quality of the horticulture and the historical perspective that embodied Madame Ganna Walska’s vision...this was the work ethic that became synonymous with Virginia Hayes.”

Teacher, mentor, author, plant-geek, photographer, environmentalist, mother, scientist, web-master and friend. Virginia’s wonderful spirit and amazing breadth of knowledge are quite irreplaceable, and Lotusland will be forever grateful for all she has done for the garden.

—Bob Craig
DONOR PROFILE
David & Judy Jones

“We feel so fortunate to have such a world-class botanical garden in our neighborhood. There was so much thought that went into the design and development of Lotusland that we wanted to help insure its future for many generations.” —David and Judy Jones

David and Judy Jones discovered Santa Barbara on a coastal drive from San Francisco to San Diego in the early 2000s. Captivated by Santa Barbara, they decided to return for a month the next year to explore the area. What was meant to be a temporary stay ended in a home purchase and resulted in a love affair with our city that has been going strong for nearly 20 years. Today, the Joneses split their time between Santa Barbara and their native Naples, Florida, where they support scholarships for local students.

As residents, being philanthropic in the community was equally important. Upon introduction to Lotusland, they were awestruck by its beauty and became more involved by attending Lotusland events and visiting the gardens. Recently, Judy and David have generously invested in Lotusland with a gift of life insurance, a tool he is familiar with as a wealth advisor specializing in estate planning and insurance. David hosts informational seminars relative to this subject, and he has offered his expertise to help provide information and insightful strategy for Lotusland supporters.

Judy and David wish to support Lotusland so it remains vibrant long after their lifetimes and are excited about the experience and education Lotusland offers Santa Barbara residents and visitors alike.

Giving Life Insurance
ONE OF THE MOST SATISFYING WAYS TO DONATE

Life insurance can be a tool with many purposes. When your children were young, you may have purchased policies to provide them with financial protection in case something should happen to you or your spouse. Many retirees have purchased life insurance in the past to help their heirs pay their estate tax bills. Exemptions have risen dramatically over the years from $600,000 to $5,500,000 per person, and many families find that they no longer need the coverage. Have your circumstances changed? If so, you might be interested in one of the most satisfying uses for life insurance that you no longer need—donating it to Lotusland. A gift of life insurance creates leverage for your gift as well as possible income and estate tax savings. Here are three ways to arrange this gift.

1. Give an existing policy
When you choose to name Lotusland as the policy owner and beneficiary, you receive an immediate income tax charitable deduction. If premiums are still payable on the policy, you would continue to pay the premiums (if needed) and would receive additional income tax deductions each year for these payments. At your passing, Lotusland receives the death benefit income tax free, and it will not be taxed in your estate!

2. Retain ownership of an existing policy and make Lotusland the beneficiary
If you would rather retain ownership of a policy for your own financial security or that of others, you have the following options.

Name Lotusland as the primary beneficiary, while retaining the right to change the beneficiary as owner of the policy.

This option does not produce a current income tax charitable deduction, but any amounts payable to Lotusland at your death will not be subject to federal estate tax and will not be included in your estate. This gives you flexibility in future planning just in case your financial situation changes.

3. Create a new policy for future charitable gifts
You can buy a new policy and name Lotusland as the owner and beneficiary. All premiums paid by you (which would go to us first, and we would pay the premium) would be tax deductible.

People are living longer and life insurance rates have fallen dramatically over the past 30 years. Most large carriers will issue new policies on insureds up to age 85 at very competitive rates.

It is possible to also buy a second-to-die policy on yourself and your spouse, creating further leverage and lower premiums. We have also seen some donors choose to insure their children or grandchildren to keep the premiums as low as possible (or in case the older donor may not be insurable).

FIND OUT MORE
When considering any of these charitable arrangements, it is especially critical to have a skilled planning team with expertise in finance, law, taxes and life insurance. We are happy to answer any questions regarding charitable giving that you or your advisor may have. For more information, please call Rebecca Anderson at 805.969.3767 ext. 104 or email her at randerson@lotusland.org.
FOR THE PAST few months, Lotusland’s staff has taken advantage of the winter season to execute preparatory tasks that must be completed well before the heavy work of the Japanese Garden Renovation project can begin. The timing was extremely critical for most of these tasks. The koi fish prefer to be moved when the weather is cool, before they spawn. The niwaki sculpted trees—many of them started by Frank Fujii, Ganna Walska’s gardener and co-designer—had to be dug up and boxed during their winter dormancy. The trees will be returned to their original positions in the garden near the end of the project, and the koi will be returned to the pond as well.

Another critical task was moving the Japanese stone lanterns out of the garden to prevent any damage to them during the renovation. Ganna Walska amassed more than 30 Japanese stone lanterns, or ishi-dōrō, to embellish her Japanese stroll garden. The lanterns were placed in appropriate locations by Walska and Fujii, each according to their purpose. Set with stones or wash basins and an arrangement of plants, they fit seamlessly as an important garden ornament. This winter, the lanterns have been carefully cataloged, along with their accompanying rocks, basins and plants, so that they can be returned to their original positions to complete the renovation at the end of 2018.

We took advantage of the need to move Walska’s exquisite and historic lantern collection to showcase them, all together for the first time, in the stunning Ishi-Dōrō of Lotusland exhibit along the main drive, opposite the Japanese Garden. Walska’s ishi-dōrō collection includes stone lanterns of many styles and purposes, representing many different periods in Japanese history and culture. While the provenance of these lanterns cannot be verified, records indicate that some of them were acquired from the Japanese gardens of local Montecito estates, some of which were dismantled during World War II as a show of patriotism. It is likely that some came directly from Japan, possibly for the Japanese Emperor’s exhibit at the 1904 World Exposition in St. Louis, which were subsequently sold to merchants and wealthy patrons.

The Ishi-Dōrō of Lotusland exhibit is temporary, but will remain in place while the Japanese Garden undergoes the urgent renovation to repair water features, rebuild the path system to make the garden fully accessible, restore original plantings and fulfill Walska’s and Fujii’s vision for the garden.

ADOPT-A-LANTERN

Permanent naming opportunities for elements of the Japanese Garden are available, including individual lanterns, through a gift of $10,000 each. Each sponsored lantern will feature the donor’s preferred name listed on a beautifully engraved plate. Individual, foundation, honorary and memorial listings are welcome.

Only 30 lanterns are available for naming, and they are being chosen on a first-come–first-served basis.

To be a part of this effort or adopt a lantern in the exhibit or make a donation to the Japanese Garden Renovation, please contact Rebecca Anderson at randerson@lotusland.org.

Learn more about the Japanese Garden Renovation at www.Lotusland.org.
Members’ Family Day • A Magical Garden!
SATURDAY, MAY 20 • NOON TO 4:00 PM

Lotusland wants to thank you, our members, for your support by hosting our 20th annual Members’ Family Day. All members are invited, especially children of all ages!

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

Garden Admission to Members’ Family Day IS FREE!
You must reserve space for your family by mailing in the reservation form, along with a non-refundable vehicle fee of $15.

Due to the popularity of this event and to allow as many members as possible to attend, Lotusland requests one vehicle per membership.

Members are welcome to bring family or friends, but please leave four-legged friends at home.

Don’t have enough room in your vehicle? Please consider asking your guests to become members and purchase their own vehicle pass. All vehicles are valet parked. Mail your reservation form early to assure your attendance as this event often quickly fills to capacity.

No phone or email reservations, please.
Call Member Services 805 969.3767 ext. 120 or ext. 115 if you have questions or need a membership brochure mailed to be able to include more guests.

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

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

Mr. Funn presents a family-friendly magic act and balloon art entertainment in the Theatre Garden • 1:30 to 2:15 PM and again at 2:45 to 3:30 PM.

On the Great Lawn, everyone can enjoy activities and crafts, face painting by Anji Lawson and the giant mural created by Kathy Mills • NOON to 3:30 PM.

Dress up in magical-themed costumes and pose for your free souvenir photo taken by photographer extraordinaire Bob DeBris • NOON to 3:30 PM.

Activities will include:

- Complimentary assorted drinks will be available all afternoon.
- Enjoy a complimentary ice cream cone served on the main house patio from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.
- A limited number of picnic blankets will be available, or you can bring your own.
- Bring your own lunch basket and enjoy a picnic on the lawn! Remember: No food will be available to purchase.
- Complimentary lemonade, iced tea, juice boxes and water will be available all afternoon.

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

Reservation Form

Member Name(s) __________________________________________ Total no. in vehicle _______________
Street Address __________________________________________ No. of adults __________ No. of children 3 to 12 ______
City ____________________________________________________ Zip: __________ No. of teens ___________ No. of children 2 and under____
Best Email Address ______________________________________ Knowing children’s ages helps us to plan activities.
Best Phone Number ________________________________

Payment Method:

☐ Check # ___________ enclosed.
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover
☑ Made payable to Ganna Walska Lotusland
Card Number ________________________________
Exp. Date ___________ Security Code ___________
Signature ________________________________
BRUCE VAN DYKE grew up in Fallbrook, California, and attended UCLA before joining the Army Air Corps during World War II. He was a bomber pilot who trained cadet pilots and bombardiers.

He married his college sweetheart, Miki Harkness, and when the war ended, he resumed his studies at UCLA. Bruce changed his major from physics to subtropical horticulture, and his life revolved around plants from then on. After graduating from UCLA in 1948, he moved with his young family to Carpinteria to take a job as an instructor at Santa Barbara Junior College.

Bruce eventually started his own horticultural services company offering grafting, pruning, spraying and consulting services. He was involved in almost every aspect of gardening and horticulture in the community. Bruce was a horticulturist at Lotusland for more than 20 years. Current Lotusland volunteer and retired Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner Bill Gillette recalls a time when Bruce phoned him about a rust fungus in the Aloe Garden at Lotusland. It turned out to be *Uromyces aloes*—rare and potentially very damaging. Bruce immediately removed all the infected plants and, in Bill Gillette’s estimation, saved the Aloe Garden and potentially kept the rust from spreading throughout the state.

Bruce worked in all sorts and sizes of gardens, and there are trees in backyards all over Santa Barbara that he grafted, gardeners throughout the county who learned how to prune their fruit trees from him, and countless friends who remember him for his good humor, kindness and love of plants.

He was generous with his time and knowledge. Bruce taught popular education classes in home gardening, wrote a garden column for the *Santa Barbara News-Press* for 33 years and managed both the Santa Barbara Orchid Show for 21 years and Santa Barbara Flower and Garden Show for 5 years. He was a board member and president of Santa Barbara Beautiful, served as a City Parks Commissioner for 18 years, was a member of the City Street Tree Advisory Committee for 25 years and was a trustee of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. When the city of Santa Barbara stopped pruning the rose garden on the Mission lawn, he drafted his good friend Duke McPherson, and the two of them started a volunteer pruning effort that has turned into a Santa Barbara institution in which hundreds of people take part. For all this, he received many awards and acknowledgements including the Heritage Oak Award from Santa Barbara Beautiful for lifetime achievement.

He was also an avid hiker and made many summer trips to the Sierra Nevada. He swam regularly at the YMCA, where he made many friends. Bruce and Miki traveled extensively in Latin America, South East Asia and Africa. He loved snorkeling, photography and, of course, his own home gardens. Miki Van Dyke died in 1996 and Bruce married Dorchen Forman in 2003. He lived the remainder of his life with Dorchen in her beautiful Goleta home surrounded by fruit trees and flowers.

Bruce is survived by his wife Dorchen, daughter Christopher, son Peter, grandchildren Papaya and Nicholas, six great-grandchildren and many dear friends.

The family wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the loving care provided to him at the end of his life by Elza Hernandez and her caregiver team, and in his last days by Santa Barbara Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care.
New Employees

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

GENNY BOLTON

Genny has joined the Development team as Database Coordinator and Development Assistant. A Santa Barbara native and descendant of the Montecito Cota family, Genny brings much valuable experience to her position, as well as a love for nature and our beautiful coast. Most recently, Genny worked with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and held a prior position in Development with the Alzheimer’s Association.

TARA TAYLOR

Tara recently became one of the new Lotusland Membership Assistant duo. She hails from Portland, Oregon, where she studied English and creative writing. With a resume full of customer service experience, Tara is excited to contribute to a team with the like-minded goal of preserving not only the amazing force of nature, but the history of the people who nurtured it along the way. Tara hails from a family of landscape architects and has enjoyed visiting gardens throughout the Pacific Northwest.

GRACE CISEK

Grace joined us as a Membership Assistant. She is a Santa Barbara native who grew up hiking the foothills and spending her weekends at the beach. She graduated from Biola University with a degree in Sociology where she then pursued a career in social work. After traveling and working as a Behavior Specialist, she moved back to her hometown of Santa Barbara. Her experience with people and passion for helping others will come into play as she works with new and renewing members at Lotusland to make sure they have the best experience possible.

NANCY YOKUBAITIS

While new to Visitor Services, Nancy is no stranger to Lotusland, having brought her class to the garden for many years with the Fourth Grade Outreach Program. Nancy taught elementary school in Goleta for more than 30 years and brings with her a wealth of patience and problem-solving expertise that translates very well to the position of helping arrange for members and the public to plan their visits our amazing garden.

TINA MARZIO

You will find Tina at the Visitor Center kiosk this season when you first arrive at Lotusland. We are fortunate that Tina brings many years of kiosk experience from her previous position at El Capitan Canyon. She has worked in the California State Park system and was a Santa Barbara County Parks Ranger for 15 years. You’ll often find Tina, a lifetime resident of Santa Barbara County, where she is most happy—outside hiking, surfing and now enjoying Lotusland.

THOMAS BAKER-RABE

New to the garden staff is Thomas Baker-Rabe. His Santa Barbara City College education focused on modern sustainable practices, integrated pest management, soil ecology, organic horticultural solutions and plant care. Thomas is also a practicing arborist experienced in correct pruning and safety procedures. Previously he worked with Arroyo Seco Construction and gained valuable large-scale project landscape experience. Thomas also enjoys collecting and hybridizing rare and unusual plants.
LOTUSLAND IS PROUD to be participating in the March for Science on April 22. Speakers begin at 11:00 AM at De la Guerra Plaza and march begins at noon.

This “celebration of science” is about the very real role that science plays in each of our lives and the need to respect and encourage research that gives us insight into the world. At its core, science is a tool for seeking answers based on empirical research and fact. The march finishes at Alameda Park with the Earth Day celebration. Lotusland invites you to join us at the march and please stop by and say hello at our Earth Day booth on both Saturday and Sunday.

Lotusland exists at the intersection of science and art.

WATER RESERVOIR

Our water well feeds into a reservoir that sits on an adjoining property and dates back more than 100 years. The roof is old and is in need of repair. $10,800. The system of pipes leading from the reservoir that delivers the water to our property are also old and beginning to fail. $32,300. Any gift is appreciated.

To DONATE, please contact Rebecca Annderson, Lotusland Director of Development, at 805.969.3767 ext. 104 or randerson@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’s signature event, Lotusland Celebrates: Avant Garden, our annual fundraising gala, is the hottest ticket of Santa Barbara’s summer social scene and is always a sold-out affair.

Space is limited. Pre-sale of tables and patron-level tickets are available now.

Invitations will be mailed to members in mid-June. Individual tickets are available at that time, space permitting.

Reserve your sponsorship now at www.lotusland.org, by emailing ctentler@lotusland.org or by calling Courtney at 805.969.3767 ext. 116

SATURDAY, JULY 29 • 3:30 TO 8:00 PM
Cacti and Cocktails
SATURDAY, MAY 6
3:00 TO 6:00 PM

Enjoy the remarkable blooms of the cactus and magnificent epiphyllum on a leisurely garden stroll. Tours are docent-led, or members may self-guide. Celebrated mixologists Alvaro Rojas and Kyle Peete of Alcazar and Milk & Honey (joint Spirit of Lotusland winners) will serve cactus-inspired cocktails in the garden. Sip prickly libations and enjoy light and tasty fare.

Admission is $65 for members and $80 for non-members. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 805.969.9990.

Share a spectacular late afternoon in the garden with delicious craft cocktails and enjoy light and tasty fare.

Mother’s Day Tea and Tour
SATURDAY, MAY 13 • 1:30 TO 4:00 PM

One of our most popular events is celebrating mothers and Mother’s Day on the Saturday before Mother’s Day—by touring the garden and enjoying tea and refreshments on Lotusland’s Great Lawn. Tours are docent-led, or members may explore the garden on their own. This is the perfect treat for someone special in your life.

Tickets are $80 for members, $90 for non-members and $40 for children ages 3–12. Advance reservations are required and may be made by calling 805.969.9990.

A Compost Tea Party
A FOCUS TOUR OF LOTUSLAND’S COMPOST TEA PROGRAM
EXCLUSIVELY FOR GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 11 • 3:00 TO 5:00 PM

Join Lotusland’s sustainable horticulture expert, Corey Welles, along with special guest, renowned educator and pioneering environmentalist Dr. David White, for an insightful look into Lotusland’s compost tea program. We will trek to Lotusland’s compost piles for a behind-the-scenes look at how the tea is made, the methods of application and the science behind why it works.

Enjoy light refreshments in the Rose Garden with trustees and staff.

RSVP by April 7 to 805.969.3767 ext. 120 or bleonard@lotusland.org.

Compost teas applied as foliar sprays help suppress fungal diseases and increase plant vigor.
June Solsticce Twilight Tour  
SATURDAY, JUNE 10 • 4:00 TO 6:30 PM

VIEW THE GARDEN in the magical light of late afternoon with blooms and colors that are unique to the season. This popular event invites guests to enjoy the long days of summer.

Non-members reserve a docent-guided tour while members and their guests have the option of exploring the garden on their own. Wine and light hors d’oeuvres are served from 4:30 to 5:15 PM on the geranium terrace overlooking the main lawn.

Admission is $70 for members and $80 for non-members. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Visitor Services at 805.969.9990.

EXCLUSIVE INVITATION FOR GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS

Summer Bounty Dinner  
A LOTUSLAND FOOD AND WINE FÊTE  
SATURDAY, JUNE 24 • 5:00 TO 8:00 PM

CELEBRATE THE BEAUTIFUL evening light of summer with an intimate dinner served on Lotusland’s Great Lawn. Chef/owner Justin West of Julienne and Wildwood Kitchen will prepare a special menu for this farm-style feast, taking inspiration from the garden and featuring locally sourced ingredients, including a few from Lotusland’s orchards. Jaffurs Wine Cellars will provide the wine pairings.

Invitations will be mailed in May to all Garden Lover members.

Cost is $275 per person ($175 is tax-deductible). Space is limited to 30 Garden Lover members. Please contact Bambi Leonard at 805.969.3767 ext. 120 or bleonard@lotusland.org to purchase tickets or for more information.

LotusFest!

SATURDAY, JULY 15 • 2:00 TO 5:00 PM

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

Enjoy these afternoon delights:
- Wine tasting • Smooth jazz
- Delectable hors d’oeuvres • Lotus viewing • Craft beer
- Lotus flowers open during the day and close at night.
- Prime viewing time during LotusFest will be until 3:00 or 4:00 PM.

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

Thank You to Our

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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.
Many Lotusland events are open to non-members, so please let your friends and neighbors know about the great activities we offer.

Tuesday, April 11
A Compost Tea Party
3:00 TO 5:00 PM
Exclusively for Garden Lover members. See details on page 15. Please call 805.969.3767 ext. 120 by April 7 to register.

Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23
The March for Science and Earth Day at Alameda Park
See details on page 14.

Saturday, May 6
Cacti and Cocktails
3:00 TO 6:00 PM
See details on page 15. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, May 13
Mother's Day Tea and Tour
1:30 TO 4:00 PM
See details on page 15. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, May 20
Members’ Family Day
NOON TO 4:00 PM
See details on pages 10 and 11. Please use the reservation form to register.

Tuesday, May 30
Blooming Bromeliads Focus Tour
Postcards with details will be mailed to all Garden Lover members.

Saturday, June 10
June Solstice Twilight Tour
4:00 TO 6:30 PM
See details on page 16. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, June 24
Summer Bounty: A Lotusland Food and Wine Fête
Exclusively for Garden Lover members. See details on page 16.

Saturday, July 15
LotusFest!
2:00 TO 5:00 PM
See details on page 16. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, July 29
Lotusland Celebrates: Avant Garden
3:30 TO 8:00 PM
See details on page 14.

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.