A Forest of Cactus: The Dunlap Collection

BY PAUL MILLS

I have received many strange letters at one time or another from all over the world but yours, I am sure, was the strangest of all.

-Ganna Walska, August 1, 1966

OUR DAYS PRIOR, Merritt "Sigs" Dunlap sat at his typewriter and crafted this "strange" letter to Madame Ganna Walska that would set in motion the creation of one of the great displays of cacti in a public garden and one of the most dramatic gardens at Lotusland—The Dunlap Cactus Garden. The letter stated that he wanted to bequeath his cactus collection to Lotusland.

In 1966, Merritt Dunlap, or "Sigs" to his friends, had been developing his cactus collection for 37 years, which was near its peak with "approximately 1200 plants, of 880 species and varieties." Sigs got his first plant in 1929 and his last in 1999—70 years of horticultural history. His passion was

Continued on page 2



The Cactus Garden at Lotusland embodies the collaborative genius of a devoted collector, a visionary designer, numerous botanical experts and imaginative donors all coming together to create an iconic garden that could only exist at Ganna Walska Lotusland.

IN THIS ISSUE

A Forest of Cactus: The Dunlap Collection	1	Forces of Nature	9	Fall Harvest Dinner A Lotusland Food and Wine Fête	15
		Benefit Shopping Extravaganza	9		
Director's Letter	4	Honoring Members of	10	Exceptional Plants Lotusland Auction and Sale	15
C Magazine Features Lotusland	4	The Lotus Society		The Spirit of Lotusland	15
Horticultural Happenings ACP HLB Preventative Measures	5	Restoring Body & Spirit Japanese Garden Renovation Capital Campaign	11	A Cocktail Competition	15
				Volunteer Profile: Harry Linden	16
Farewell, Monterey Cypress	5	Japanese Garden Renovation	12	Montecito Birdman	
Collections News	6	An Inspired Gift	12	Help Make Lotusland's Wishes Come True	16
Building Botanical Bridges		Members' Family Day	13		17
Paul Mills Named Lotusland's	6	A Magical Garden		Become a Lotusland Docent Reception for Prospective Docents	17
Curator of the Living Collections		LotusFest!	14	Volunteer Appreciation Picnic	17
Remembering Michael Towbes	7	Fruzsina Keehn Fine Jewelry	14	Lotusland Says Thank You	17
lifetime Honorary Trustee		William Laman Private Viewing and Sale		Garden Champions, Visionaries,	17
Lotusland Celebrates: Avant Garden	8	Summer Twilight Tour	14	Stewards and Guardians	

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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 first cactus that Sigs Dunlap collected 88 years ago, an Echinopsis spachiana, is located just off the path on the southeast side of the garden.

Continued from page 1

growing cacti from seed, which accounted for about 40% of the collection. He acquired seed or small plants from only the most reputable nurseries, researchers and explorers of the time. The irreplaceable cacti from the Galapagos were from David Walkington of Fullerton Arboretum and Yale Dawson, then Director of Darwin Research Station; South American cacti from Hildegart Winter, sister of indefatigable explorer Friedrich Ritter; and additional rarities from famed botanist and nurseryman Harry Johnson, just to name a very few.

By the mid-1990s, Sigs was having difficulty navigating the steep, hilly terrain of his garden so, to his delight, Esau Ramirez and I, along with other Lotusland staff, started visiting the property quarterly to help maintain the collection. In 1999, Sigs turned his bequest into a donation, hoping to see his plants in their final home at Lotusland, where there was a sense of urgency to complete this project within Sigs' lifetime. Bob Emmons, then President of the Board of Trustees, fearlessly said, "Let's do it!" even without having funding in place.

Moving Sigs' collection was like untangling a knot, with cacti intermingled and vying for space. We began making weekly trips between Lotusland and Fallbrook, transporting the mediumsized cacti, clearing the way for access to the 30 or so largest plants to be boxed and crated for transport.

Mark Holland, formerly of Big Trees of California and now of Environmental Design, Inc., was contracted to move the largest cacti. Mark writes that "in 35 years of moving thousands of trees and plants," the Dunlap project was "the most technically and logistically challenging of all." Mark remembers that "the size, the terrain, the fragile plants, and the fact that this man, Mr. Dunlap, spent the better part of his life amassing this wonderful collection of priceless cacti from around the world added to the complexity." Figuring out how to load the plants onto the two flatbed trucks was like a jigsaw puzzle, and other than turning some heads on their travels through Southern California, the trip went without mishap.

During these months of moving plants, Esau and I often joined Sigs in the evenings for a refreshment and sharing of stories. Sigs recounted his work on the California aqueduct in the 1920s and 30s, being stationed in Santa Barbara during World War II to oversee the construction of the Hoff Hospital, serving as the first President of the Theodore Payne Foundation dedicated to California native plants and, of course, his travails growing cacti from seed.

After the plants had been at Lotusland for 11/2 years, we wondered how long these massive cacti would remain healthy in their relatively small boxes. Anne Dewey, Director of Development at the time, remembers a pivotal moment at a Lotusland Board of Trustees meeting in which Michael Towbes asked then Director Steve Timbrook, "Are they okay being stored like that for a while longer?" Steve emphatically said, "No, they are not; they need to be planted or we are going to start losing them." Michael Towbes asked for an estimate and said right there on the spot, "I will give half if you raise the rest." That is when Steve conceived the I Like Mike campaign. The fundraiser was a huge success with people marching around town wearing I Like Mike buttons on their lapels to honor one of Santa Barbara's greatest philanthropists, a longtime board member and dear friend of Lotusland.



The Cactus Garden steps under construction in April 2003. Two large cacti are still in the crates built to safely transport the plants from Fallbrook to Lotusland. Southwest toward the Great Lawn.



View of the Cactus Garden in 2003 from the elevated viewing platform looking southwest toward the Great Lawn.

At the beginning of the second phase—garden design and creation— Virginia Hayes, former Curator, recruited locally and internationally renowned garden designer Eric Nagelmann for the project. Eric's gardens are known to be bold and exciting to the senses, much like Lotusland itself. Eric admits, "When I was first approached on this garden, it was quite an intimidating prospect!" Eric donated his services to design the new cactus garden and was on site nearly every day for more than four months to oversee its installation. When Eric presented his design to the trustees, one remarked that entrance from the formal olive alleé would be an abrupt or shocking transition. Eric replied, "I hope so." Eric's dedication

to and involvement with Lotusland continues to this day.

We planted the garden with a geographic theme, as it was at Sigs' house. The cactus family is almost entirely from the Americas—except one species in western Africa—so a stroll through this garden allows one to essentially experience the great deserts of the New World.

In August of 2003, Sigs celebrated his 97th birthday in the newly completed garden. He marveled at the manner of which his collection was displayed and later said that the last year had been the best year of his life. We all felt lucky to have been part of fulfilling his dream and his legacy.

What was a collection of plants shoe-horned into a Fallbrook hillside became a sprawling forest of cacti. It's hard to believe how much the garden has grown in the 14 years since Sigs' birthday, with some of the plants putting on 10–20 feet of growth. And to think, it all started 88 years ago with Sigs' first cactus, an *Echinopsis spachiana*, which we still have in the garden.

In 2014, Lotusland began an endowment for this quintessentially "Lotusland" garden. Honorary Chairman of the campaign, the late Michael Towbes, was once again the first to step up to grow an endowment to care for this unique and iconic garden in perpetuity. Maybe it's time to dust off those *I Like Mike* buttons.



Ganna Walksa and Merritt Dunlap in an October 1967 snapshot during a tour and picnic for the Theodore Payne Foundation.



L TO R: Eric Nagelmann, Esau Ramirez, Michael Towbes, Steve Timbrook and Paul Mills at the Cactus Garden opening celebration in June 2005.

Director's Letter

HIS ISSUE of the Lotusland Newsletter is filled with stories steeped in legacy, but are only a few chronicles of the many significant and enduring contributions given by steadfast champions who have helped make Lotusland one of the most outstanding gardens in the world.

Madame Ganna Walska gave her most profound gift and legacy of Lotusland to us more than three decades ago, and the garden has been preserved and enhanced ever since by those who left their own lasting mark. The legacy gift of a rare and important cactus collection, instigated by the unexpected friendship between "Sigs" Dunlap and Ganna Walska, has secured Lotusland as a critical repository for these rare plants and forever positions us to be a key partner in the global effort to conserve rare cactus species. Of course, conservation at Lotusland is done in style, and Eric Nagelmann contributed his design of a bold and elegant garden for the cactus collection, seamlessly melding it with the unmatched beauty of Lotusland. The unwavering leadership of Mike Towbes inspired donors to support this important project, which has permanently enhanced Madame Walska's vision.

Gardens—by their very nature are ephemeral. Change is relentless as plants grow, mature and inevitably die, and as infrastructure becomes weathered and worn. For that reason. the legacy gifts of those who give to endowment is most powerful in its support of the continuous cultivation and care of the garden. Only by building endowment will we be able to ensure a sustainable future for Lotusland.

We thank, honor and celebrate our members and friends in The Lotus Society who have committed their support to our garden's future, thereby helping to preserve Madame Walska's legacy and joining her in leaving their own. More than 156 members of The Lotus Society have donated over \$4 million in endowment and/or bequeathed 150% more. Mike Towbes, a long-standing member, bequeathed a



Gwen Stauffer

gift of \$500,000 to endowment. While we mourn our loss with his passing and shall always miss his presence, we are forever grateful for this generous and enduring gift he left to the garden and for the legacy he left to us.

Warmest regards, Gwen L. Stauffer



C Magazine Features Lotusland

in SANTA BARBARA'S fantastical LOTUSLAND, otherworldly superhero ZOE SALDANA comes DOWN

Photography by KURT MARKUS Styling by ALISON EDMOND

tten by CHRISTINE LENNON



HE SUMMER 2017 issue of C Magazine features the "otherworldy superhero" Zoe Saldana photographed at Lotusland. This glorious 14-page spread was shot by the internationally acclaimed photographer Kurt Markus and features fashions created by Valentino, Gucci, Dior, Bottega Veneta, Tom Ford, Chanel, Dolce & Gabbana, Miu Miu and many more.

Markus' stunning imagery captures this quintessential American film star with the elegance, high fashion and whimsy that embodies the spirit of Ganna Walska. If you can't wait to see the feature, log on to magazinec.com and start enjoying the imagery right now.

Thank you to Jennifer Hale, Founder, Editorial Director and CEO of C Magazine for sharing Lotusland with hundreds of thousands of readers throughout California and beyond.

Horticultural Happenings ACP HLB PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

HAT ARE ACPs, do we have them, what are we doing to avoid disaster?

Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) is a new pest to our area that feeds on all types of citrus trees. Huanglongbing (HLB), a bacterium lethal to citrus trees, is carried on the bodies of ACP and spread by infected psyllids as they feed. The state of Florida, where ACP was first introduced, experienced massive losses of citrus due to the sheer quantity and scale of vulnerable orchards under cultivation, when there was no known controls for this new pest. Infected psyllids made their way to California and are now in Santa Barbara. So far.



Signs in the Citrus Orchard remind visitors not to remove any fruit.

these psyllids do not appear to be infected with HLB, but infected psyllids are slowly spreading from infected areas around Los Angeles. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is ahead of Florida in understanding the pest and developing controls once ACP is present and has launched a mandatory control program for commercial orchards. However, preventative measures and sustainable practices are as important in keeping this insect and disease from spreading.

It is virtually impossible to completely eradicate ACP from the environment. Commercial and private orchards managed with organic control methods are reporting low numbers of ACP, but orchards managed with conventional methods of aggressive chemical pesticide and fertilizer applications are not gaining control. In fact, these orchards are seeing a spike in ACP and many other pests as well. In addition, small residential orchards, which do not fall under CDFA oversight, collectively represent hundreds of thousands of citrus trees that are potential hosts for the insect and the disease.

Lotusland uses organic methods approved by the CDFA in our citrus

orchards, applying very minimal amounts of organic sprays to control ACP, which preserves our robust beneficial insect population. ACP prefers heavily fertilized trees that quickly sprout profuse, and very tender, shoots and leaves. Lotusland fertilizes at low rates to maintain slow sprouting of thick, tough leaves, and this limits habitat for the pest. Our low-nitrogen fertilizers are in complete contrast to the high-nitrogen fast-growth fertilizers used by many commercial citrus groves. Our successful insectary program supports abundant beneficial insects that quickly knock down most problem insects as they emerge, unlike massive commercial groves that often have no beneficial insect program. Because of our combined organic fertilizer and pest-control programs, Lotusland enjoys extremely low numbers of ACP.

If you have citrus in your home garden and want more information, explore the University of California's IPM (integrated pest management) website, http://ipm.ucanr.edu/index.html.

Lotusland will continue to develop sustainable programs that will benefit our citrus, our landscape, our community and our future.

—Corey Welles

Farewell, Monterey Cypress

HE MONTEREY CYPRESS (Hesperocyparis macrocarpa) on Lotusland's Great Lawn was felled over a period of four days at the end of May. Arborist Jacob Claassen said the removal was the most complicated he has ever done, due in part to more than 200 pieces of metal and cabling that kept the tree standing.

Much of the wood has been set aside, and numerous local artists are creating an array of Lotusland cypressinspired art that will be available in our Garden Shop in the months ahead.

While we all miss this glorious and iconic specimen, change in a garden is constant, and the gardens remain gloriously alive and vibrant.



COLLECTIONS NEWS

Building Botanical Bridges

UBA IS KNOWN as the land of tobacco, warm people, vintage cars, lively music and dance, but beyond all of that, Cuba is a biodiversity hotspot that has a very rich flora comprised of many endemic plants. I recently had the opportunity to visit this largest of the Caribbean islands to experience it firsthand.

With guidance from renowned Cuban cycad biologist Ramona Oviedo, I was able to visit *Microcycas calocoma*, a



Cienfuegos Botanic Garden palm expert Hermes Rodriquez, with the Lotusland Collections and Horticulture book.

critically endangered cycad that is only found in western Cuba. It grows alongside such diverse plants as palms, agaves, epiphytic cacti, orchids and burseras. The site we visited was within a national park and was also being used for floristic studies—one could only enter with a guide.

Every province in Cuba has a botanic garden, and I visited three including the National Botanic Garden in Havana and the Cienfuegos Botanic Garden, which is the oldest in Cuba and began as a collaboration with Harvard University. One of the highlights of the trip was a personal tour of the palmetum at Cienfuegos Botanic Garden with their staff palm expert, Hermes Rodriguez. He has worked there for 36 years and is in charge of overseeing the palm collection, many originally planted by him. To be able to admire what some of the Cuban palms in the Lotusland Palmetum will turn into was breathtaking. Mature plants of Copernicia baileyana and C. macroglossa were grouped among the myriad palms, as were Coccothrinax miraguama and C. crinita, all represented in our Palmetum.

Thanks to an invitation by the Cienfuegos Botanic Garden, I now have



Microcycas calocoma, a critically endangered cycad that is only found in western Cuba.

the opportunity to return to Cuba to represent Lotusland at an upcoming international conference. I will give a presentation on plant collections management and the role of botanic gardens in plant conservation. The overriding theme for the conference is "building botanical bridges." —Paul Mills

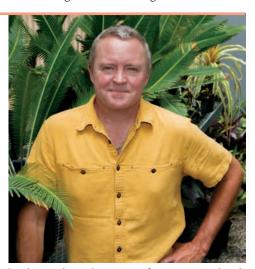
Paul Mills Named Lotusland's Curator of the Living Collections

years of experience working with and studying plants. In 1990, he started working at Abbey Garden Cactus and Succulent nursery in Carpinteria while studying biogeography at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He did field work in Mexico with Charlie Glass of CANTE Botanical Garden and Ted Anderson of Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix. Funded by CITES, Paul and the team set up field monitoring sites for endangered species at El Charco del Ingenio Botanic Garden.

Paul started his career at Lotusland as a cactus and succulent specialist in 1995. In 1999, Paul took a year to study

plant conservation at the prestigious Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in London. Upon returning to the United States, he spearheaded the Dunlap cactus project for Lotusland and eventually became Lotusland's assistant curator.

Paul served as president of the Santa Barbara Cactus and Succulent Society and received the 2014 Bouquet of the Year award, the highest honor of the Santa Barbara Horticultural Society. His extensive travels in Latin America, most notably Chile, to study and observe plants in their native habitat has furthered his knowledge, expertise and understanding of the rare and exceptional plant collections he is



charged with caring for at Lotusland. He has given numerous lectures and presentations on his many plant expeditions, and the species he has observed and studied. Paul continues to represent Lotusland at many national and international conferences.

I Like Mike!

ICHAEL TOWBES believed in Lotusland. He, along with the Towbes Foundation and Montecito Bank & Trust, generously supported the garden even before Lotusland opened to the public in 1993. As a testament to his level of dedication, Mike donated the most valuable of all resources—his time—serving on the Board of Trustees for 12 years during the organization's nascent period, beginning in 1992. Mike attended groundbreaking ceremonies, ribbon cuttings, celebrations and events, and

Remembering Michael Towbes LIFETIME HONORARY TRUSTEE

he was present at many of the most crucial junctures in Lotusland's early years as a public garden. Mike and Anne Towbes further reinforced their profound connection to the garden when they exchanged wedding vows under the shade of oaks in the Upper Bromeliad Garden on September 4, 2005. In recognition of Mike's wise counsel and many years of leadership that helped Lotusland move forward in meeting its goals of preservation, education and conservation, he was named Lifetime Honorary Trustee in 2005.

Mike's business acumen, generosity and creativity will have a lasting and positive influence on the garden for decades to come. He was instrumental in helping produce a Master Plan, guiding the Finance Committee, and restoring the Horticultural Clock and Topiary Garden. From the beginning, he supported Lotusland's longestrunning public educational program the Environmental Horticulture Work Experience Program with Santa Barbara City College—and funded docent training. He helped with tasks small and large, from securing new computers to joining as a charter member of The Lotus Society, Lotusland's legacy program. Perhaps the greatest achievement

was Mike's role in making the new Cactus Garden possible by chairing the *I Like Mike* campaign that raised the necessary funds to build this incredible garden.

Gwen Stauffer, Lotusland's Executive Director, remembers Mike this way, "Mike's contributions to Lotusland are vast, but I will remember most the very personal gift he gave to Paul Mills, our Curator of Living Collections. Upon learning that Paul was conserving rare Galapagos Island cactuses that he had never seen in the wild, Mike immediately sponsored a trip to the Galapagos Islands for Paul. Mike had a deep understanding and appreciation for Lotusland, calling it "an oasis of tranquility in a chaotic world."

Mike's daughter, Carrie, perfectly describes the nature of her father; "Mike will be remembered as a pillar of the Santa Barbara community. For years, he has been admired as a savvy entrepreneur, a generous humanitarian and a true gentleman. He believed in working hard to build a better world and giving back to the community that had given him so much."

Thank you, Mike, for having the vision to see Lotusland's potential and for supporting our mission.



November 1992 groundbreaking for Lotusland's Visitor Center. L TO R: Director Steve Timbrook with then Board members Arthur Gaudi, Carol Valentine, Anne Jones and Michael Towbes.



Anne and Mike at their Lotusland wedding in September of 2005.



OTUSLAND'S ANNUAL fundraising gala, Lotusland Celebrates: Avant Garden, takes place on Saturday, July 29, from 3:30 to 8:00 PM.

This year's event is unique in its affiliation with VALENTINO, whose iconic fashions will be featured in three of Lotusland's gardens.

Following the garden odyssey, avant garde cocktails and an incredible locally sourced dinner by *duo Catering & Events*, the world-renowned auctioneer Eliza Osborne, Executive Director of the Centre Pompidou Foundation, will present a select slate of unique items on the auction block, including these six spectacular items.



BELMOND LA SAMANNA

RELAX IN THE top-rated ocean and garden paradise of Belmond's St. Martin luxury resort. Two guests will enjoy a six-night stay in a one bedroom beachfront suite with spa experiences and meals. Set beside the island's finest beach and lapped by the Caribbean Sea, Belmond La Samanna is the ultimate St. Martin luxury resort.









NEW YORK FASHION FANTASY

EXPERIENCE TIMELESS ELEGANCE with a one-week stay in a suite at The Lowell with special excursions, including behind-the-scenes visits to The Costume Institute, Bergdorf Goodman and New York Botanic Gardens, and a very special private party at Verdura including a peek into the Belperron archives, one of Madame Ganna Walska's favorite jewelers.

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

ENJOY A MAGICAL DINNER for ten guests in the garden with master astrologer Jennifer Freed during an extraordinary evening of fine dining and astrological insight inspired by Madame Ganna Walska's own love of astrology and spirituality. A highlight of the evening will be conversations and inspirations from special guest Hania Tallmadge, Madame Walska's niece.

IN FULL BLOOM

HOST A PRIVATE cocktail party for up to 40 guests in the Lotusland garden of your choice, with award-winning mixologist Patrick Reynolds creating custom Lotusland-inspired cocktails and Chef Michael Hutchings providing delicious bites.



AQUA RISING

AN EXQUISITE AQUAMARINE and diamond ring handcrafted by esteemed local jeweler Daniel Gibbings. A highly sought-after one-of-a-kind piece, it is a true collector's dream ring.

DIAMOND DUST PORTRAITS

THREE 25"x37" DIAMOND-DUST PORTRAITS of Madame Ganna Walska form a triptych created by renowned British-American artist Russell Young. Russell's work is collected by museums, celebrities and connoisseurs worldwide, and he is celebrated for his diamond enhanced silkscreen portraits.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PLACE AN ABSENTEE BID

Please contact Courtney Tentler at 805.969.3767, ext. 116.

Forces of Nature

THE CREATORS OF LOTUSLAND CELEBRATES: AVANT GARDEN

OTUSLAND CELEBRATES: Avant Garden is shaping up to be the most talked-about party of the summer, largely because of the work of our entire volunteer committee and especially the generosity and leadership of these three talented, creative and hard-working women.



JENNIFER SMITH HALE HONORARY CHAIR

"I can't think of a better place to enjoy life and while away a warm day than the grounds of Lotusland. Santa Barbara's garden jewel is a local paradise, and I feel privileged to be the Honorary Chair of Lotusland Celebrates: Avant Garden gala this summer."



BELLE COHEN LOTUSLAND TRUSTEE AND CO-CHAIR

"Lotusland is a space that fostered my creativity as a child, and my aim in my service as a Trustee and as the Co-Chair of this event is to connect the legacy of Madame Walska to the next generation. My desire is for local children to continue to benefit from the garden's teachings, as well as its beauty and tranquility."



RACHEL WRYAN CO-CHAIR

"Lotusland is a magnificent blend of fantasy and wonderment that only Madame Walska could have created. Over the years, I have met so many wonderful people here who have come together to preserve a place of indelible beauty. Lotusland is an endless source of inspiration, full of hidden surprises, winding paths on different journeys, a place to dream, or seek comfort or to celebrate. Lotusland captures the many seasons and joys of life, and it is my pleasure to participate in support of this truly wild and wondrous part of our community."

Benefit Shopping Extravaganza

N ANTICIPATION of the Lotusland Celebrates gala, supporters were invited to Beverly Hills on a beautiful June afternoon for champagne and shopping to benefit Lotusland, in partnership with Honorary Chair Jennifer Smith Hale, Founder, Editor and CEO of C Magazine and Santa Barbara Magazine.

Many thanks to VALENTINO for hosting this special afternoon and donating a percentage of sales to benefit Lotusland.



The LOTUS SOCIETY

Honoring Members of The Lotus Society

N AN INCREDIBLE warm evening as the sun set into the sea with city scape seen best from a perfect perch on Santa Barbara's Riviera, Lotusland leadership thanked and celebrated members of *The Lotus Society* with a special reception held at the beautiful home of *Lotus Society* Chair Peggy Wiley and her husband Wilson Quarré.

One hundred *Lotus Society* members gathered to mingle and enjoy each others' company in their shared commitment to the sustainability of Lotusland and its gardens. Peggy and

Wilson warmly welcomed the group and expressed gratitude to the members, founders and staff who contributed to the success of this visionary group.

The Lotus Society, now in its 17th year, has 156 members who understand and invest in Lotusland's critical need to build its endowment. These very special supporters have made planned or outright gifts to Lotusland's endowment.

For more information or to join *The Lotus Society*, please contact Director of Development Rebecca Anderson at 805.969.3767, ext. 104.



Alex Rasmussen, Joanna Kerns and Marc Appleton enjoy the views and good cheer.



Barbara Savage, George Burtness and Robert Ornstein offer a friendly toast.



Trustee Belle Hahn Cohen with Madame Walska's niece, Hania Puacz Tallmadge, and Daniel Cohen.



Christine Neuhauser, Curt Coughlin, Ozzie Da Ros and Rebecca Anderson.



Eric Nagelmann, Cristi Walden and Dennis Whelan enjoy the spirit of the event.



Gary Brown strikes a pose with the ever-popular full-size likeness of Madame Ganna Walska.



Julie Bush and Tom Gibbons express their enthusiasm for this memorable Lotusland event.



Leslie and Mark Schneiderman joined The Lotus Society to ensure the sustainability of Lotusland.



Nancy Vasi, Executive Director Gwen Stauffer, event host Peggy Wiley and Kia McInerny.

Restoring Body & Spirit JAPANESE GARDEN RENOVATION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

COMPASSION

THE JAPANESE GARDEN is the single largest garden at Lotusland, covering more than an acre. The comprehensive renovation plan will rejuvenate and preserve this treasured garden while meeting our visitors' modern needs. Benefits of the renovated Japanese Garden will ensure:

- Accessibility for all
- Group gathering spaces for educational programming
- Restoration of failed waterfall and pond infrastructure and improved Koi pond clarity

COLLABORATION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Lotusland's experienced staff, Derrik Eichelberger of Arcadia Studios, a local expert in historic landscape restoration, and Paul Comstock of Comstock Design, a firm based in Malibu with international acclaim and experience with Japanesestyle gardens, are partnering as the design team to bring the renovation to fruition. Together, this team brings the best talent in historic garden preservation and an understanding of the tenets of authentic Japanese garden design. Both firms are generously contributing to the project and bring the full complement of skills to fulfill Madame Ganna Walska's vision for the garden, while making it more authentic and fully accessible.

CONTRIBUTION

WITH GIFTS AND PLEDGES from Lotusland's leadership, docents and special friends, contributions to fulfill the renovation now total nearly \$3 million. A total of \$4.6 million is required to restore Lotusland's largest and most beloved garden to make it more practical for public tours and programming. *Make a donation online at lotusland.org/donate.*

COMMUNITY

RENOVATIONS TO THE GARDEN will begin in late summer. Now we look to our community to help close the gap. Together, we can realize a vision for a garden that will welcome and restore the body and spirit of all who enter. Join

our community of supporters by making a contribution! Pledges may be payable over five years. There are many ways to support this project:

- Adopt-a-Lantern
- Make a memorial or tribute gift
- Become a Lotus Society member and direct your endowment support to the Japanese Garden Endowment
- Help to connect Lotusland to foundations and corporate sponsors

YOU ARE INVITED

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO view the plans and tour the project, please contact Development Associate Genny Bolton at gbolton@lotusland.org to make arrangements. To lend your support to this exciting project, please contact Rebecca Anderson, Director of Development at 805.969.3767, ext. 104 or randerson@lotusland.org

JAPANESE GARDEN DONORS

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AND

60 Lotusland docents



The Wyatts pause for a moment at the torii gate.

Japanese Garden Renovation

AN INSPIRED GIFT

HE CHERRY BLOSSOM, or sakura, is Japan's national flower and cultural icon, not just for its overwhelming, although fleeting, beauty, but for its enduring expression of life, death and renewal. One of the most famous sites for cherry blossoms in Japan is Mount Yoshino, or Yoshinoyama, located within Yoshino-Kumano National Park near Kyoto and Osaka. The mountain is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as the "Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range." Approximately 30,000 different varieties of native cherry trees thrive on the mountain, covering it with spectacular clouds of spring-time blooms in various shades of pink.

The Kii mountains overlook the Pacific Ocean and are thought to be the place where earth meets heaven. Fujiwara Michinaga (966–1028), the most powerful and influential Fujiwara regent of the Imperial capital of Kyoto, believed the Buddha of the Future (Maitreya) would awaken from under Mount Yoshino's cherry trees and begin a New Age of Enlightenment.

Cherry blooming season in March and April is glorious and intoxicating but tragically short-lived, symbolizing the Buddhist themes of mortality, mindfulness and living in the present. Japanese samurai personified the cherry blossom metaphor of beauty and mortality. Living by a strict moral code of respect, honor and discipline, their duty was not only to exemplify and preserve these virtues in life, but also to appreciate the inevitability of death without fearing it. A fallen cherry blossom symbolized the end of the samurai's life.

A single cherry tree has bloomed in Lotusland's Japanese garden since Madame's time, but it was her vision and Frank Fujii's plan to have more. The renovated Japanese Garden includes a "Spring Blossom Walk," a beautiful and handicap-accessible pathway lined with flowering cherries.

Japan's cherry blossom festivals, or *Hanami*, are deeply rooted in cultural and religious traditions. Gathering under the blooming cherry trees in April, celebrants

do not simply admire the enthralling display, but over picnics with bento boxes, sweet mochi and sake-filled glasses, they live in the moment. They absorb the beauty of today, commemorate the loss of loved ones, reflect on their own precious lives and usher in a new year with a sense of wonder.

We are so very grateful to all the donors who believe in and support the objectives of this project. More than 100 donors have given nearly \$3 million toward the \$4.6 million required to renovate the Japanese Garden.

To support the Japanese Garden renovation, please contact Rebecca Anderson, Director of Development, at 805.965.3767, ext. 104 or randerson@ lotusland.org.

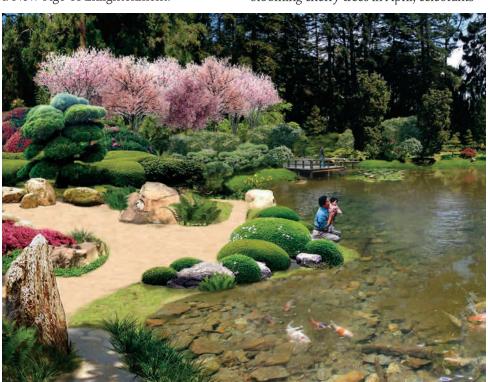
—Gwen Stauffer



Junio Milenese in the Japanese Garden.

RENOVATION SITE COORDINATOR

LOTUSLAND GARDENER Junio Milenese will coordinate with the landscape architects and construction crews on the Japanese Garden Renovation project. Junio has been on staff at Lotusland since 2015 and has proven to be very dedicated, hard working and very enthusiastic about this project and his new role. His many years of practical garden experience, combined with his degree in landscape architecture from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, is an ideal background as he focuses his energies on helping to manage the many complex details involved in a project of this scale. We are fortunate to have a person with Junio's background, talent and education on the project.



In this artist's rendering, the "Spring Blossom Walk" is pictured east of the reflecting pond and karesansui and will lead to the new Wisteria Pavilion. A generous donor has dedicated their gift by naming this "Spring Blossom Walk" feature in memory of Michael Towbes, who passed away in April when the cherries were blooming. It is a fitting tribute to a man who lived his life by a code of honor, integrity, discipline, beauty and generosity.

Members' Family Day, May 20, 2017 A Magical Garden GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THOMAS & NANCY CRAWFORD, JR.

IN HONOR OF THEIR GRANDCHILDREN



A hot afternoon is made perfectly cool with a delicious ice cream cone.



A rubber duck and a pond-life does not get any better.



Three generations collaborate on the perfect creation at the craft table.



The giant mural inspires another young artist.



The magic of the afternoon is captured by photographer Bob De Bris.



Another face painting masterpiece, and a very happy subject, created by Anji Lawson.



These painted feline faces brought out the animal instincts on Members' Family Day.



LotusFest!

SATURDAY, JULY 15 • 2:00 TO 5:00 PM

NJOY WINE TASTING on the lawn from more than a dozen of Santa Barbara County's premier vintners, delectable hors d'oeuvres, craft beer and live music. Experience a relaxing afternoon at this casual, fun event.

Lotus flowers open during the day and close at night. Prime viewing during LotusFest! is until 3:00 or 4:00 PM, so make sure to allow time to savor the spectacular lotuses in bloom.

Book early as this popular party sells out! Tickets are \$95 for members and \$115 for non-members. Space is limited. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 805.969.9990.

Fruzsina Keehn Fine Jewelry

WILLIAM LAMAN PRIVATE VIEWING AND SALE FRIDAY, JULY 21 AND SATURDAY, JULY 22 • 10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

N JULY 21 AND 22, drop by William Laman (1496 East Valley Road) for a private viewing and sale of Fruzsina Keehn (fruzsinakeehn.com) fine jewelry.

New York-born designer Fruzsina is renowned for her elegant, vintage-inspired jewels, and ten percent of the proceeds from purchases will be gifted to Lotusland.

SUMMER RAFFLE

FRUZSINA HAS CREATED a custom set of three strands of pearl necklaces for our summer raffle. Its classic design is universally chic, with 40", 42" and 44" strands of 12mm pearls with 4mm pearls nested between. The necklaces are valued at \$4,000. Raffle tickets are \$20 each, or purchase six for \$100, and may be purchased online at Lotusland.org/pearls through August 31. All proceeds benefit the garden.



Fruzsina Keehn's custom-made long pearl necklaces are an elegant prize in this summer's Lotusland raffle.



Enjoy a unique opportunity to sip a glass of wine or cool beverage in the garden in the late afternoon light.

Summer Twilight Tour

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 3:30 to 6:00 pm

HE TWILIGHT TOUR allows you to enjoy the garden in a new way. Begin the tour with a cool beverage or wine in a commemorative Lotusland wine glass that is yours to keep. A light snack is served midway through the tour in the sunken drawing room overloooking the lawn. The late afternoon light enhances this magical setting, and the garden can take on a whole different feeling and appearance on the Summer Twilight Tour. Members and their guests can explore the garden on their own.

Cost is \$70 members; \$80 non-members. Reservations are required. Please call 805.969.9990.

Fall Harvest Dinner:

A LOTUSLAND FOOD AND WINE FÊTE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

ALL HARVEST: A Lotusland Food and Wine Fête is a culinary celebration and a truly exceptional feast. Experience a meal inspired by the garden and expertly paired with cellar-select wines from Dragonette during the evening twilight at Lotusland. Chef Cindy Black of Blue Owl and vintner Steve Dragonette lead the conversation, sharing their gastronomic passions and culinary inspirations for creating this memorable evening.

This intimate event is created specifically for *Garden Lover* levels of membership. *Garden Lover* level members will receive an invitation with more information in August. Tickets go on sale at that time.

Please call Bambi Leonard at 805.969.3767, ext. 120 with any questions or to become a *Garden Lover* member and join the fun!



Exceptional Plants

LOTUSLAND AUCTION AND SALE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 • 1:30 to 5:30 pm



HIS IS LOTUSLAND'S 6th 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. Proceeds from the event are used to care for and support Lotusland's botanical collection.

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

The Spirit of Lotusland A COCKTAIL COMPETITION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28
3:00 to 5:00 pm

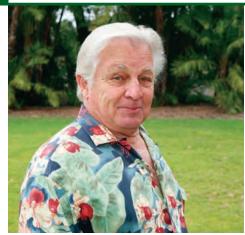
TROLL THROUGH LOTUSLAND while enjoying creative cocktails paired specifically to each garden by California's top mixologists.

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.

Cost is \$95 members; \$110 non-members. Reservations are required. Please call 805.969.9990.

Must be 21 years of age to attend.





Harry Linden

ARRY BECAME a Lotusland docent in February 2016 and has been dedicated to the garden ever since. "I love it. It changes every day. Every time I go, there's something new to see and learn," he says.

Harry grew up in the Malibu Colony. Since childhood, surfing has been his most central pastime and enduring love. In 1965, he traveled extensively in the Caribbean and South America, where he discovered "secret" surf spots. "No one had ever surfed those spots before us," he remembers. "No crowds. The beaches were empty." Cloudbreak—off Tavarua Island, Fiji—is his all-time favorite surf spot. Harry

Volunteer Profile: Harry Linden MONTECITO BIRDMAN

is the founding president of Malibu Surfing Association, and he remains an active advocate for ocean health and surfing culture.

Harry graduated from UCSB with an MS in engineering in 1969 and began a 31-year engineering career. He designed submarines, exotic car parts, orthopedic surgical instruments, sports equipment and more, for which he's been awarded 18 U.S. patents. Google acquired one of his patents, and it became an integral part of Google Glass, a heads-up display.

Harry moved to Montecito in 1975 and established the Santa Barbara Bird Farm, which he still owns and operates. In 1977, the Sycamore Canyon fire destroyed his home and property. Harry rebuilt his home and aviaries, and in 1986, he married Phoebe Greene. Together, they care for large parrot aviaries and lush gardens that include guava, pomegranate, grape, orange, Mandarin and loquat trees. They've traveled extensively to visit surf spots and parrots in their native habitats.

In addition to surfing, engineering,

traveling and caring for parrots, Harry enjoys gardening and working on classic cars. He's restored many cars and can be seen driving around Montecito in his cream-colored 1938 Ford Woodie wagon. In the garden, Harry likes to plant things, then leave Phoebe in charge of caring for them.

Gregory Padgett, a now-deceased local artist and personal friend of Madame Ganna Walska, gave Harry his first private tour of Lotusland in 1987—before the gardens were open to the public—and it was love at first visit. (Mr. Padgett made the metal pelican that hangs poolside and the metal sunflowers in the succulent garden as personal gifts for Madame.) Harry enjoys tending his own cycads, ponytail palms, succulents, cacti and fruit trees and uses the information he gathers at Lotusland as a source of inspiration.

"Becoming a docent is enlightening and enriching. Learning about the plants and animals, interacting with visitors, docents and staff—the entire experience is almost as good as surfing the perfect wave," he says.



Help Make Lotusland's Wishes Come True

DRINKING FOUNTAIN REPAIR

Many THANKS to longtime Lotusland volunteers Nancy and John Vasi who have committed to help repair the drinking fountain in the Fern Garden. John has volunteered at Lotusland for more than 15 years, the first ten as a docent and the past five primarily in the Insectary Garden and Nursery. He and



Nancy appreciate the importance of access to a cool drink of water when walking or working in the garden.

The project requires substantial plumbing work. An additional \$1,400 is needed to complete the repair. Time is of the essence as we seek to improve the fountain's drainage before the end of summer.

GOLF CART E-Z-GO 4 PERSON

THIS MODEL will allow Lotusland to more fully serve the needs of our mobility-challenged members and guests. \$6,300

ALL-TERRAIN WHEELCHAIR TERRA TREK URBAN

THIS MODEL greatly enhances the ability of our members and guests to more fully explore the garden. Judy Cardinal has made a generous

donation toward the purchase, and an additional \$1,800 will fully fund the purchase of the new wheelchair.

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 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.

Become a Lotusland Docent

RECEPTION FOR PROSPECTIVE DOCENTS MONDAY, AUGUST 28 • 9:30 AM DOCENT TRAINING BEGINS SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

RECEPTION FOR prospective docents will be held on Monday, August 28, offering an opportunity to learn about being a Lotusland docent, and to meet some of our current docents and friendly staff members. Many of our docents were Lotusland members before they joined the docent corps.

On September 11, 2017, Lotusland begins a 12-week docent training course

providing all the necessary information for conducting a tour. Instructors include Lotusland staff and other experts. These informative and enjoyable Monday morning sessions last from 9:30 AM to NOON.

Please tell your neighbors and friends about this fun opportunity to learn about, and dwell in, one of the top ten gardens of the world.



Docents learn history and horticulture in a fun and informative 12-week training course.

For more information or to make a reservation, contact Kitty Thomassin, Volunteer Coordinator, at 805.969.3767, ext. 112, or kthomassin@lotusland.org.

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic LOTUSLAND SAYS THANK YOU

N MONDAY, June 26, Executive Director Gwen Stauffer welcomed Lotusland volunteers and thanked them for helping make Lotusland so amazing. Other staff members joined Gwen to offer thanks and recognition to all those gathered. The 264 volunteers contributed an astounding 28,692 hours



Volunteers in the Theatre Garden.

to Lotusland in 2016! More than half of our volunteers are docents who lead both regular public tours and fourth grade outreach tours. Other volunteers help maintain the grounds, staff the Garden Shop, help in the greenhouse, assist with administrative projects and the newsletter, work at special events and assist with our library and archives.

At a picnic in the Theatre Garden, we honored these valuable members of the Lotusland team and thanked them for their service to the garden. The picnic always falls near Ganna Walska's birthday, June 24, so marking her birthday is a part of the celebration.

Thank you so much to all of our dedicated volunteers!

Thank You to Our Garden

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Members Who Have Increased Their Level of Support

MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2017

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CONSERVATOR

Oscar B. Marx III & Kathleen E. Luke-Marx Lori Kraft Meschler Gretchen & Jack Norqual

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Patti Channer Scott Francis & Susan Gordon Holly & Robert Murphy Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Smith Susan Thompson & Steve Fennell

Lotusland Members

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2017

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Victoria Erhart & Ned Hobson
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continued on page 19

Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2017

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Nancy & John Vasi

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Summer 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, July 15

LotusFest! 2:00 to 5:00 pm See details on page 14. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Friday, July 21 Saturday, July 22

Fruzsina Keehn Fine Jewelry William Laman Private Viewing and Sale See details on page 14.

Saturday, July 29

Lotusland Čelebrates: Avant Garden 3:30 TO 8:00 PM See details on page 8.

Saturday, August 19

Summer Twilight Tour 3:30 TO 6:00 PM See details page 14. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Monday, August 28

Reception for Prospective Docents 9:30 AM
See details page 17. Please call Kitty Thomassin at 805.969.3767 to reserve your space.

Saturday, September 16

Fall Harvest Dinner:
A Lotusland Food and Wine Fête
Exclusively for Garden Lover members.
Invitations are mailed in August.
See details page 15.

Printed on recycled and recyclable paper with vegetable-based inks

Saturday, October 7

Exceptional Plants: Lotusland Auction and Sale 1:30 TO 5:30 PM See details page 15. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, October 28

The Spirit of Lotusland: A Cocktail Competition 3:00 TO 5:00 PM See details page 15. 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.