As a volunteer at Lotusland 25 years ago, I was assigned the job of going through a multitude of scrapbooks that Madame Ganna Walska had compiled from the late 1940s through the ’60s. The pages of these scrapbooks are loaded with clippings from newspapers, periodicals and other sources, as well as material from Madame’s personal life. Many of the scrapbooks contain handwritten notes, correspondence, photographs, cards and drawings that she inserted alongside the clippings. These private albums resonate with her spirit, revealing a woman with an encyclopedic curiosity about life and the world.

Individually created by her hand and organized by topic, most scrapbooks feature a single theme such as jewelry, hypnotism, health, costumes, yoga, Russia, Africa and even kitchen gadgets—just to name a few of the

continued on page 2
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.

Scrapbook number two is filled with a multitude of information and hundreds of images of palm trees. Madame was known to have the gardeners move her palms around the garden on occasion. A handwritten note pasted in this scrapbook states that, as of 1966, Lotusland had 691 palms.

Continued from page 1

wide-ranging subjects covered in more than one hundred scrapbooks. Madame’s inquiring mind guided her scissors and determined the assemblage of the materials that confirmed her taste and enlightened her mind. Her scrapbooks mimic her penchant for collecting, but they were also useful memory aids for events, ideas and knowledge from which she could revisit and retrieve information or facts.

Not surprisingly, a number of her scrapbooks are related to horticulture. Sources for these garden scrapbooks include Santa Barbara News Press, Los Angeles Times, Desert Magazine, The New York Times, National Geographic Magazine, Arizona Highways and The Saturday Evening Post. In addition, there are notes and postcards from friends and acquaintances, fellow garden enthusiasts and nursery owners providing information on plants they hoped she might have interest in.

Combining informative and visual material on plants and garden-related subjects, the majority of articles are about plant varieties and tips on care. Scrapbooks on ferns, cacti, flowers, palms, garden pests, aloes, Japanese gardens and other subjects reflect unique ideas such as grottos, driftwood, pebble mosaics and zodiac clocks—source books for the ideas she considered implementing in her garden.
One of three cacti-themed scrapbooks includes several pages with photos of desert cacti. Many of these photos show children alongside the cactus to demonstrate comparative size. In this image, a little girl is holding a large teddy bear.

There are numerous scrapbooks on esoterica, psychic phenomenon, hypnotism, spiritualism and religion. The pages of the horoscope scrapbook show zodiac symbols, related articles on the topic and images of unusual horoscope-type clocks. Note the Cartier clipping.

For close-up views, go to lotusland.org/scrapbooks.

One of three cacti-themed scrapbooks includes several pages with photos of desert cacti. Many of these photos show children alongside the cactus to demonstrate comparative size. In this image, a little girl is holding a large teddy bear.
LOTUSLAND QUIETS down in late November, when our Conditional Use Permit requires that we suspend public tours for three months. Until we are permitted to open our gates again in mid-February, we may host members-only programs and events, and I hope you will take advantage of these few opportunities during a gorgeous season in the garden that only members get the chance to enjoy.

With only 15,000 tour reservations allotted annually by our Conditional Use Permit for the entire year—with all member visits included in that allotment—we are forced to turn away thousands of potential visitors each year. We are always saddened by this. Gardens are vital places where people can reconnect to nature, to themselves and to each other, and Madame Ganna Walska intended that countless people would be able to enjoy—the tranquil and spiritual beauty of Lotusland.

Even with the price of admission at $45 per adult, the revenue we are able to generate from reservations is profoundly constrained, composing only 11.8% of Lotusland’s total annual budget. Therefore, in 2017, we will increase the adult admission to $48 per visit, and the child admission to $24. We believe these minor adjustments will be understood by our visitors, and we expect to sell out the 15,000 available reservations, as we do every year.

Lotusland is the most highly regulated and restricted garden in the United States, which is why it is among the most expensive to tour. Still, Lotusland is one of only a very few select gardens that continuously appears on top-ten lists of must-see gardens from around the world. Lotusland is internationally renowned as one of the most spectacular and important botanical treasures on Earth, and Santa Barbara residents get to claim it as ours.

Even though many more people want to visit Lotusland than the number of reservations available, we are committed to ensuring that our current members continue to have free visitation during tour season. We especially appreciate the essential financial support you provide through your annual membership, which funds about 15% of Lotusland’s total annual budget and helps to care for and preserve this very special and important garden. We are grateful to you, our members, for your stewardship. By increasing admission fees, we are asking non-member visitors to help share in the effort for the good of the garden.

Happy New Year, and I look forward to seeing you back in the garden!

With warmest regards,
Gwen L. Stauffer

LOTUSLAND’S ICONIC Monterey Cypress has approached the end of a very long life. More than 130 years ago what started as a seedling in Kinton Stevens’ lath house would eventually become a defining icon on Lotusland’s great lawn. In addition to being a reminder of earlier eras, it has become a hazard to the public. As plans are being made for its dismantle, we recognize that many members would appreciate a chance to get one last glimpse of what will become a fond memory in the annals of Lotusland lore.

We invite you to make a reservation for one last look when we open in 2017, as the tree will be felled at the end of February. Please call 805.969.9990 to make a reservation from Thursday, February 16, through Saturday, February 25, and say farewell to a Lotusland icon and friend.
**Horticultural Happenings**

**THE CYCAD GARDEN**

In preparation for the Japanese garden renovation, the koi and catfish need to be relocated. Santa Barbara Koi assisted in updating the cycad pond, which has been murky for years. A plan was hatched to relocate the koi from the Japanese garden to the renovated cycad garden pond. To make the pond inhabitable, the plumbing and gravel in the bio filter and the static water line from the filter to the pond were replaced. We added a new supply and return line to increase the amount of water being exchanged and to give the pond more water circulation, and installed an air pump and added air stones to help keep the water oxygenated. We also upgraded the electric and brought it up to code. We upgraded an existing surface drain below the bio filter and added stepping stones raised off the floor of the pond to support aquatic plants and to give the fish a place to both hide and stay out of the sun. After the Japanese garden renovation, most of the fish will return home. While the fish will never know the time and expense we went through to prepare their temporary home, I’m confident they will enjoy the change of scenery.

—Tyler Diehl

**BUMBLE BEE**

I recently reached out to Robbin Thorp, Professor Emeritus, Department of Entomology and Nematology at the University of California, Davis to help identify an insect I discovered in our newly renovated insectary garden. He identified it as a female bumble bee (Bombus crotchii). It appears to be a queen bumble bee (or more appropriately a gyne, since she does not have worker offspring yet), based on her size in relation to the flower parts. She will feed until her fat bodies are sufficient to carry her through her winter hibernation. Hopefully she has mated. She has probably already dug a small hibernation chamber for the winter and is just out foraging on a fine day. When it gets really cold, she will stay in her hibernaculum until the warm weather comes back in spring.

—Corey Welles

**LOTUSLAND WELCOMES SCOTT LEON**

Scott recently joined the Lotusland team as the facilities assistant. Scott, a Santa Barbara native, is an avid surfer, photographer and mixed-media artist. His hobbies reflect an appreciation for beauty and deep love for the ocean and outdoors. Scott worked for a number of years aboard the Condor Express, earning a captain’s license and witnessing an amazing abundance of wildlife while developing a unique understanding of the Santa Barbara Channel. After Scott first visited Lotusland many years ago (with the woman who later became his wife), he returned several times and imagined it would be a marvelous place to work. Now, he is happy to contribute to the preservation of this precious jewel right in his own hometown.

—Corey Welles

**Ganna Walska Lotusland Financials Are Online**

Lotusland is proud of its responsible financial stewardship, and our most recent financial reporting information is available on our website.

Go to Lotusland.org and in the “About Us” tab, navigate to “Financials” to view the current tax and reporting information, plus the 2015 Annual Report; IRS tax forms 990 and links to the audited financial statements are also available for your evaluation.

Ganna Walska Lotusland is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity. This same page has a link to the IRS website designating this listing.
COLLECTIONS NEWS

Waiting in the Wings

LOTUSLAND’s NURSERY operation comprises several functions. One is to nurse damaged or diseased plants back to health. Another is to propagate the approximately 2,500 succulent plants that each Fourth Grade Outreach student gets to take home each year. But another, and quite significant purpose is to nurture new species for the overall collection.

Through plant and seed exchanges with other botanical institutions as well as collecting cuttings and seeds from Lotusland’s collection, there are always a number of plants growing for future inclusion on public view. Currently, we have some interesting bromeliads from different sources that will make their way into the garden when they are big enough and the season is right to plant them.

One donor to our Exceptional Plant Auction provided duplicate plants of Puya weberbaueri and P. yakespala, somewhat rare in cultivation and sure to be great additions to the display. Another puya, P. gilmartiniae, was acquired through the International Succulent Introductions (ISI) program. This bromeliad is considered critically endangered in its coastal habitat in Chile, so being able to preserve some small part of the germplasm becomes more important. Puya feruginea came to Lotusland through the generosity of a local hobbyist plant collector, as did two species of Hechtia, which were grown from seeds that they collected on their journeys.

—Virginia Hayes

SAVE THE DATE

Celebrate the Planting of the New Monterey Cypress

APRIL 28, 2017

Palmetum Ribbon-Cutting

The Palmetum is a wonderful new addition to Lotusland. The ground cover (Carex divulsa) is filling in, and the garden is becoming established. The pathways offer an interesting entrance to the water garden, and the palms frame a view of the original Gavit-era pool in an intriguing fashion. The view from the George Washington Smith bench down the historical 514’-long architectural axis is spellbinding.

Last summer, we honored the people who made it possible to build the Palmetum. Eric Nagelmann designed the garden, artfully weaving the old with the new, perfectly in sync with the design aesthetic of Lotusland. We are forever appreciative of this gift.

We thank the following individuals for their generosity in making this wonderful new garden possible: Philip and Patricia Bilden; Roger and Gail Haupt; The Ann Jackson Family Foundation; Suzanne and Gilbert Mathews—Lucifer Lighting; and Ann Scarborough. Additional support was provided by: Cactus Joe; Custom Hardscape; Instant Jungle; Pat Scott Masonry; Seacrest Nursery; Steve Hanson Landscape; and a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Jim Jackson, Joan Jackson, Eric Nagelmann, Gail Haupt, Chana Jackson and Suzanne Matthews at the Palmetum ribbon-cutting ceremony in July.
Lotusland Membership Program Changes
MEMBERS ARE VITAL TO LOTUSLAND’S SUCCESS!

There is no place quite like Lotusland. Being a member allows you to visit free when the garden is open, as often as you like. You enjoy the unique privilege of self-guiding and exploring the garden on your own. On February 1, 2017, we are modifying the program and pricing to meet both the needs of our valued members and those of our treasured garden.

MEMBERS ARE VITAL TO LOTUSLAND’S SUCCESS!

LOTUSLAND MEMBERSHIP
CHOOSE THE MEMBERSHIP LEVEL THAT’S BEST FOR YOU

Benefits for All Members
• Free admission when Lotusland is open
• Privilege to self-guide, sketch, paint, photograph
• 10% discount at the garden shop and online store
• Subscription to newsletter and e-bulletin
• Your membership contribution is tax deductible

Induction  $95 1 person
Dual  $155 2 people in same household
Family  $175 2 people in same household, plus their children or grandchildren under 18
Friend  $295 DUAL or FAMILY benefits, plus 3 one-time-use guest admissions ($144 value)

GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS
ADDITIONAL BENEFITS
• Member discount price on event tickets for your guests
• Invitations to exclusive Garden Lover seasonal dinners
• Free Focus Tours, curator tours, lectures and exhibitions

Advocate $600
• 6 total one-time use guest admissions for tours ($288 value)

Cultivator $1,000
• 10 total one-time use guest admissions ($480 value)
• Invitation to a reception with the Board of Trustees

Conservator $2,500 ABOVE BENEFITS PLUS:
• 15 total one-time use guest admissions for tours ($720 value)
• FAMILY level gift membership to give to a friend ($175 value)
• Electric cart tour for up to 4; subject to availability

Guardian $5,000 ABOVE BENEFITS PLUS:
• 20 total one-time use guest admissions ($760 value)
• 4-hour home garden consultation with horticultural staff
• Invitation to a reception with the Board of Trustees

Levels below enjoy GUARDIAN benefits and may host a private event.
Guidelines and facility fees may apply.

Steward $10,000
• Up to 30 guests; limit of 15 vehicles

Visionary $17,500
• Up to 60 guests; limit of 30 vehicles

Luminary $50,000
• Up to 180 guests; limit of 60 vehicles

Let’s Talk
Members are vital to Lotusland’s success, and we thank you for your input and ideas on membership. Feel free to pick up the phone or drop us an email, and let us assist, listen and guide you toward the level that best suits your needs.

Contact Bambi Leonard, Membership Manager, 805.969.3767, extension 120 or bleonard@lotusland.org.

Q. WHY ARE THE PRICES AND BENEFITS CHANGING?
A. We have not raised prices in six years, and it now costs more to maintain the garden.

Q. WHEN DO THE NEW BENEFITS BEGIN?
A. February 1, 2017

Q. WHY ARE YOU ADDING A NEW DUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVEL?
A. To increase the flexibility of members with and without children.

Q. WHY ARE YOU ADDING GRANDCHILDREN AT THE FAMILY LEVEL OR HIGHER?
A. Members requested this and we appreciate that you want to share Lotusland with your family and future generations.

Q. CAN I STILL BRING MY GUESTS ON THURSDAYS AND RECEIVE A DISCOUNT?
A. Yes. Members save $10 on adult guests when everyone arrives in the same car.
In 1967, Frank Fujii began working for Ganna Walska and launched a career at Lotusland that would span 40 years.

Frank was the son of Japanese parents who settled in Salt Lake City in 1917. Frank’s family moved to Santa Barbara when he was nine years old, and he attended a one-room grammar school on the Mesa followed by Santa Barbara junior and senior high schools. He continued his studies at the State Teachers College, located on the Riviera, taking courses from the renowned nurseryman Peter Riedel. During WWII, Frank and his family were interned at the Gila River camp in Arizona for four years, after which they returned to Santa Barbara, where Frank went to work on the Kemper Williams estate for the next 27 years.

Frank earned his contractor’s license in the 1950s and built a few Japanese-style gardens in the area, among them the Buddhist church on Montecito Street. As a landscape contractor, Frank met stonemason Oswald da Ros, who would later introduce him to Ganna Walska. In 1967, when Madame turned to da Ros to help her build her Japanese garden, Ozzie called upon Frank for his expertise. The three worked together, without a formal plan, building Lotusland’s Japanese garden. Both Frank and Ozzie were very diplomatic when they would talk about the need to make compromises based on Madame Walska’s wishes. Frank insisted that simplicity be the basic design element, and this balanced Madame’s tendencies for the dramatic.

According to Frank, “It gives you a feeling when you walk through the garden…of serenity, quietness. Makes you feel you want to meditate.” Frank told colleagues that he was concerned that the garden was not yet finished by the time Madame Walska moved on to her next project. He wanted to complete the design by creating a more traditional, irregular-shaped pond and to include plants to the water’s edge. Frank believed there needed to be a stepping stone path to the koi feeding area and wanted to create closer access to the lotus flowers.

During his four decades at Lotusland, the garden staff knew Frank well, and their memories of him are filled with respect, joy and a deep appreciation for his giving nature. Terri Clay, long-time coworker, spoke about what a privilege it was to work alongside Frank for 20 years and how “incredibly lucky she was to have spent so much of her life with someone who only made life better.” Mike Furner, 38-year Lotusland veteran, describes Frank as “a world-class guy.” Mike’s stories include Frank’s famous and un-returnable ping pong shot, the “Fujii-flop,” and he recalls Ganna Walska’s rich resonant operatic voice summoning Frank to the pavilion with “Mr. Fujii…Mr. Fujii…” Mike Iven, (now retired) Director of Grounds for 31 years, once said, “I learned so much from Frank, he was the best teacher I ever had, but I think the most important thing he taught me was how to be a good human being.” The many remembrances of Frank Fujii touch on the themes of “pruning azaleas, the value of humility, enriching lives and remembering his smile and kind spirit.” To everyone who knew and worked with Frank, the consistent thread is abundantly clear: “it was an honor to know and work with Frank Fujii at Lotusland.”

Frank is survived by his wife of 64 years, Dorothy; daughters Roberta Cook (Steve), Melanie Fujii and Doreen Sasaki (Glenn); and granddaughters Allie Ester (Chris) and Morgan Cook (fiancé Jonathan Russell). Frank also leaves behind his younger brother, Robert K. Fujii.
Preparing for the renovation of the Japanese garden requires considerable efforts from two teams. The first team of landscape architects, staff and skilled tradesmen is focused on the design and construction plans that will meet the primary objectives of the project. To date, the design documents are completed, and we anticipate that construction projects will be ready for contract bidding by April. A second team of staff and volunteers makes up the Japanese Garden Campaign Committee, which is working to raise funds to support the project. To date, the committee has raised nearly $2.5 million in gifts and pledges toward the budget of $4.6 million to renovate the garden.

Plans for the Japanese garden renovation honor the original vision of Madame Walska and Frank Fujii and blend new and existing features with outstanding design aesthetics while accommodating programming and practical needs for today’s visitors. These improvements will enhance the garden’s beauty and will realize three practical and critical physical improvements: 1) to make the garden accessible to wheelchairs so that all of our visitors may enter the garden; 2) to renovate the murky clay bottom pond to create a healthy, clean and clear pond ecosystem; and 3) to restore and enhance the original plant collections and landscape design. Although construction will not begin in earnest until late spring 2017, the Japanese garden will be closed during the entire 2017 tour season.

In the meantime, we have begun to move Madame's exquisite and historic Japanese lantern collection and her fascinating collection of koi fish. To protect the koi during the pond’s reconstruction, we have renovated a small water feature in the cycad garden to serve as a safe sanctuary and home for the displaced koi until they are returned to the reconstructed Japanese garden pond in late 2018. The lanterns will be cataloged in their original setting and then carefully relocated to form a stunning temporary exhibit until they are returned to their original position in the Japanese garden as the renovation concludes in mid-2018. The temporary lantern exhibit will be shown along the main drive, opposite the Japanese garden, and will beautifully showcase the lanterns as well as provide information on their significance, history and provenance.

These teams feel a renewed sense of urgency, as we head into winter. Lotusland’s goal is to raise at least $3 million before we break ground, but we must dig up and box the old and finely pruned Japanese maples and pines before they break their dormancy in spring. We turn to you to ask for your support of this incredible project and invite you to view the plans and hear more about opportunities for involvement. For more information please contact Rebecca Anderson, Director of Development, at 805.965.3767 extension 104 or at randerson@lotusland.org.

Japanese Garden Renovation
DESIGN NEARS COMPLETION

Ishi-Dōrō:
A TEMPORARY INSTALLATION
OF LOTUSLAND’S JAPANESE LANTERNS

We are assembling Lotusland’s collection of stone lanterns along the lower main drive to create an Ishi-Dōrō installation to allow our guests an intimate view of these iconic garden elements.

Signage describing the styles, symbolism and historical significance in Japanese garden design will accompany the exhibit. This provides visitors a greater understanding and insight into Japanese-style gardens and ensures the safety of our extensive lantern collection during construction.

Visitors are sure to appreciate this addition as we work to renovate one of Madame’s last passion projects here at Lotusland.
The Spirit of Lotusland

In November, we hosted the first annual The Spirit of Lotusland, “Cocktail Competition Inspired by the Garden.” Guests journeyed through six gardens to sample a cocktail inspired by that specific garden. Snacks were served on the great lawn, and the prizes for the best cocktail were announced.

Hardworking judges were Stephen Gertman, Owner/Distiller, Ascendant Spirits; Mac Jones, Owner/Distiller, The Real McCoy Spirits; Matt Kettmann, Senior Editor, Santa Barbara Independent; and Gwen Stauffer, Lotusland Executive Director. The contestants were from The Good Lion, mixologist: Rob Tran, who won the People’s Choice Award; Bobcat Room, mixologist: Shaun Belway; The Lark, mixologist: Suzie Coughlin; Bar 7, mixologist: Drew Morehouse; SY Kitchen, mixologist: Alberto Battaglini; and Alcazar, mixologists: Alvaro Rojas and Kyle Peete, who won the best cocktail honors with “Pickle My Fancy.”

The winning recipe:

- 1.5 oz. mescal
- 2 barspoons ginger juice
- .5 oz. lime juice
- 1 oz. Prickly Pear purée
- .25 oz. cognac
- Egg white
- .25 oz. simple syrup

Serve with an absinthe zested watermelon, ginger, and dill palate cleanser.

Special thanks to our sponsors, Ascendant Spirits, The Real McCoy Spirits, the Blue Owl, Black Sheep, Milk & Honey, The Shop and The Lark. Music provided courtesy of Valdas.

Exceptional Plants

FIFTH ANNUAL LOTUSLAND AUCTION AND SALE

A warm fall afternoon on the lawn at Lotusland was the perfect setting for this signature plant sale featuring an extensive silent auction with rare, unusual and very special plants. Guests enjoyed wine, beer, specialty cocktails and great food.

Exceptional Plants has become a veritable Who’s Who of our area’s most knowledgeable plant and garden design experts. The live auction was again a rousing success with an incredible specimen Calibanus x Beaucarnea being sold for $5,000. We appreciate the support and participation of all our colleagues, donors and volunteers in making this event so successful. We hope you will help us continue this tradition of sharing and celebrating our passion and curiosity for plants. For all those in attendance, it was indeed the ultimate plant party.

Anne Dewey, pictured with Lifetime Honorary Trustee Arthur Gaudi, retired from Lotusland at the end of 2016.

Joanie Domingue, member since 1996, and Amelia Dallenbach, member since 1993, enjoy the afternoon at our recent long time member’s appreciation event.
Eric Nagelmann was once somewhat of a shy violet. One of nine children raised a stone’s throw from Lotusland, he spent time quietly tending his family’s garden as a child. He is rarely described as shy today, as he is not afraid to lend his voice as a champion for things close to his heart. Lotusland is grateful to be among Eric’s passions. He has gifted us his design work pro-bono, as well as supporting many other local organizations including the Carpinteria Bluffs, the Carpinteria Arts Center, Santa Barbara High School’s Green Academy, Elings Park and Planned Parenthood.

A preeminent landscape designer whose international work and reputation are unparalleled, Eric’s generosity, energy and impact at Lotusland are immeasurable. Current professional projects include the Goldstein residence in Los Angeles, which was recently bequeathed to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Eric is leading a Lotusland field trip to the residence on February 10, 2017 (details on page 16). Another of Eric’s recent projects is Cuixmala, a glamorous bohemian resort in Careyes, Mexico.

Eric was first introduced to Lotusland by a friend in the 1970s. He recalls a meeting with Madame Walska, who greeted him warmly and invited him to enjoy the property, long before it became open to the public. That visit left an impression that led to Eric’s deep involvement as a long-time donor and designer at Lotusland. He has gifted his talents on three significant gardens. First was the creation of the Dunlap cactus garden in 2003, which he fondly refers to as “Salvador Dali goes to the desert.”

In 2015, Eric created the Palmetum, by reimagining the central garden and walkway between the water garden and the front of the historic Reginald Johnson-designed home and opening up an important 514’-long architectural axis reaching south to the wishing well. Most recently, Eric renovated our insectary garden, now a humming haven for beneficial insects and a valuable teaching tool for our Sustainable Horticulture Program. While the cactus garden is arguably Eric’s biggest achievement at Lotusland, the insectary represents Eric’s deep connection to the garden. It is a garden that, like Eric, warmly draws you in, creates a buzz of positive activity and has a far-reaching benefit for the entire property and our community.

In spring of 2017, when the insectary is in full bloom, Lotusland will celebrate with a ribbon-cutting and reception. We hope you will join us to help recognize Eric, and please say thank you when you see him in the garden!

—Rebecca Anderson

Lotusland is a place that nourishes everyone who enters, whether they are local schoolchildren, college horticulture and botany students, neighbors or international tourists. Lotusland is for everyone, and we want to keep it that way. Please help us by making your tax-deductible gift to help preserve and enhance this plant paradise for next year and beyond.

Lotusland is 100% privately funded. Annual gifts provide critical operating support to sustain our gardens and education programs. Lotusland relies on members and donors to continue to be a center of excellence and beauty for all to enjoy, just as Madame Walska intended. Thank you for making a gift to the garden.

Please call 805.969.3767, extension 116, or donate online at lotusland.org.
Lotusland Welcomes New Trustees

This year, we welcome two new members to the Board of Trustees.

**JOHN M. VAN DONGE**

John is a Santa Barbara native and holds a Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of California at Santa Barbara with an emphasis in economics. He is Managing Director of Investments at Stifel Financial Corp., with more than 25 years of experience serving wealthy individuals and institutions. John joined Stifel in 2014 as a founding partner of the team and serves as the Branch Manager of Stifel’s Santa Barbara South office. He leads relationship management for the team in the Western Region, including individual, corporate and foundation client relationships. John is a recognized wealth management leader in California, with a particular focus on practice management.

John’s past experience includes a 17-year career at Merrill Lynch, where he served as the Resident Director of the Century City, California Wealth Management office. He was a member of the Merrill Lynch faculty and a frequent featured speaker at firmwide events. Prior to Merrill Lynch, John served as the Director of Investment Services and Regional President of a national investment advisor, where he was responsible for more than $1 billion in client assets.

John is an Eagle Scout and a member of the National Eagle Scout Association. He served as President of the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara Police Activities League and volunteers for the Santa Barbara Police Department K-9 unit.

A member of Lotusland since 2014, John attends Lotusland Celebrates and has served on Lotusland’s Finance Committee since 2014. John resides in Santa Barbara with his wife and family.

**LESLEY CUNNINGHAM**

Originally from Pasadena, and a sixth generation Californian, Lesley first fell in love with Santa Barbara while attending UCSB. After a long paralegal career in San Francisco and Los Angeles, she went on to study and practice law in Los Angeles and the tri-county area. She has practiced as a civil litigator and business transaction attorney, and has expanded her private practice to include estate planning.

Lesley has served on the Board of Trustees at the Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara. She has been an active contributor to the Environmental Defense Center, the Santa Barbara County Bowl, the Food Bank of Santa Barbara, Pacific Pride Foundation and the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, as well as Lotusland.

She is an avid environmental activist and gardener. A member of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club, her passions include sailing, outrigger paddling, growing orchids and succulents, cycling and studying guitar. Happily married, Lesley now enjoys golfing and spending time with her six grandchildren.

Thanks to Our Outgoing Trustees

**MARC APPLETON**, Susanne Tobey and Peggy Wiley each completed their terms on the Board of Trustees this year; all three have generously served since 2010. All of us are grateful to these individuals for donating their time, efforts, energy and more—all for the greater good of the garden. Your generosity helps make the garden amazing.

Marc Appleton has provided a wealth of counsel to Lotusland with his vast experience both as an award-winning architect and as a successful businessman. Marc has been the Chair of the Facilities Committee for two years and a member for eight.

Susanne Tobey is a champion for Lotusland and held many roles on the board. Susanne has served on numerous committees, including Development, Governance/Nominating and Horticulture, and chaired the Audit committee for three years.

Peggy Wiley chaired The Lotus Society committee for seven years and has helped us develop a series of Focus Tours for Garden Lover level members. Peggy’s enthusiasm, dedication and hard work continue to be wonderful assets to Lotusland.

A heartfelt and sincere thank you from everyone at Lotusland.
Lotusland’s New Curatorial Office
Ribbon-Cutting

Curator Virginia Hayes and Assistant Curator Paul Mills have officially moved into their new offices located near the green cottage horticulture staff offices. A ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception celebrated the opening.

The spacious and bright quarters are reportedly suiting them quite well, and it is the only office at Lotusland with air conditioning.

Lotusland thanks those donors who made this project possible: Dan Bifano and Allan Brostrom, Bobbie Kinnear, Harlis Maggard, Lori K. Meschler, Dave and Judy Messick, Connie and John Pearcy, Anitra P. Sheen, Gwen Stauffer and Mark Taylor, John and Laurie Tilson, Christopher J. Toomey, John and Nancy Vasi, Rick and Sheila Vitelle, April N. Walstad and a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Help Make Lotusland’s Wishes Come True

HALFWAY TO OUR GOAL:
PROVIDE ACCESS FOR VISITORS WITH AN ALL-TERRAIN WHEELCHAIR
TERRA TREK URBAN
Lotusland’s gardens are experienced best from the pathways that wind among the plants. This style of wheelchair navigates the garden much more efficiently than a traditional wheelchair. We are halfway to our goal of $4,600, Please help provide access for all Lotusland visitors. $2,300.

TUFF SHED FOR SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE
This new structure will create greater efficiencies for all plant health care activities by housing all the components in a single location. There is a covered area for the tea spray rigs, a gas locker and specialized storage units for the various materials in the program. $16,500.

RUGGED CART FOR GARDEN USE
CUSHMAN HAULER 1200
This vehicle has a rugged truck-like design better suited for heavier loads and is able to perform more tasks than our existing equipment. The Cushman Hauler will provide the garden staff with a more versatile, efficient and safe vehicle. $13,000.

To donate, please call Lotusland Director of Development Rebecca Anderson at 805.969.3767, ext. 104 or email her at 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.
Volunteer Profile: Kristin Lewis

Kristin Lewis

Some of the many happy faces of Lotusland volunteers.

PASSIONATE ABOUT LOTUSLAND? Become a Volunteer

Bring your skills, passion and enthusiasm, and we'll put you to work. Immerse yourself in the beauty and tranquility of the garden while you also help us fulfill our mission. We are always interested in recruiting volunteers willing to donate their special talents or share their valuable work/life experiences in ways that would benefit the garden. More than 250 people help us by working in the garden, giving tours, performing office duties, serving as trustees, working on committees and volunteering to assist at events.

Volunteering at Lotusland is a fun and rewarding way to make new friends and to further engage in something amazing. If you are skilled in painting, writing, proofreading, design, languages, online media, fundraising, sales, business or any skill that can help our organization, we would love to hear from you. Lotusland is a great place to connect with plants and with people.

To find out more about volunteering at Lotusland, please contact Kitty Thomassin at 805.969.8767 or kthomassin@lotusland.org.
Check Out These New Garden Shop Items

SHOP ONLINE AT WWW.LOTUSLAND.COM/GARDENSHOP
MEMBERS SAVE 10% • DISCOUNT CODE: LLMember2017

1. Lotusland Collection bronze lotus pod with pearls on leather necklace $90.
2. Cement lotus pot $35.
3. Lotusland Collection sterling lotus and pearl earrings $90.
4. Santa Barbara artist sterling ginkgo leaf earrings $100.
5. Lotusland Himalayan sea salt soap $10.
6. Lotusland Collection sterling lotus medallion bracelet $90.
7. Santa Barbara artist bronze ginkgo leaf on leather necklace $60.
8. Exclusive Lotusland terracotta tile pot $100.
9. Heart abalone shell hand-shaped by local artist $80.
10. Lotusland whipped body cream $24.
Experience the Aloe garden in glorious bloom.

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Winter Walk
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 • 1:30 TO 3:30 PM

Join Lotusland research associate Jeff Chemnick, with bird experts Satie Airamé and Mark Holmgren, as they lead the annual bird walk. The morning tour focuses on seeing as many species as possible. This is a wonderful opportunity for both experienced birders and beginners to discover our feathered friends that spend the winter in Santa Barbara. We have several pairs of binoculars to lend if you don’t have your own. Cost is $50 for members and $55 for members’ guests. For questions or reservations, please call 805.969.9990.

Morning Bird Walk at Lotusland
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11 • 9:00 TO 11:30 AM

Join Lotusland research associate Jeff Chemnick, with bird experts Satie Airamé and Mark Holmgren, as they lead the annual bird walk. The morning tour focuses on seeing as many species as possible. This is a wonderful opportunity for both experienced birders and beginners to discover our feathered friends that spend the winter in Santa Barbara. We have several pairs of binoculars to lend if you don’t have your own. Cost is $50 for members and $55 for members’ guests. For questions or reservations, please call 805.969.9990.

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Please Note: As this is a private residence, there is no disabled access to the many outside stairways. Comfortable walking shoes are a must.
Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

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He was an inspiration to us all.
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Winter 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, January 21
Winter Walk
1:30 TO 3:30 PM
See details on page 16. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Friday, February 10
Sheats Goldstein Residence: A Lautner Masterpiece
9:00 AM TO 4:30 PM
See details on page 16. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, February 11
Morning Bird Walk at Lotusland
9:00 TO 11:30 AM
See details on page 16. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Thursday, February 16
Garden reopens for public tours after winter recess.

SAVE THE DATE
Friday, April 28
Celebrate the planting of the new Monterey Cypress.

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.