

Ganna
Walska



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER • FALL 2020

THE LOTUSLAND EFFECT

How Gardens Heal Us

COLLECTIONS NEWS

A Passion for Bromeliads



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Lotusland Members and Friends,

"A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness. It teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust." —Gertrude Jekyll, British horticulturalist



For the last six months the pandemic has driven us to hunker down in our homes, and for many of us, this includes more time spent in our gardens. My family planted a new garden in April, and its fruitful offerings of red and yellow vine ripe tomatoes were a highlight of many of our summer meals.

Gardens provide satisfaction, beauty, therapy, and a sense of command in a world that is largely out of our control. Despite its destruction, COVID has had a benefit of teaching us to treasure our homes, gardens and natural landscapes.

Public gardens offer immense benefits by stimulating and soothing with their synthesis of scenery and science. During this time of indoor risk, public and private gardens have become a sanctuary.

As we navigate exposure during the COVID pandemic, we can trust in the embrace of the natural world. The safety and serenity of fresh air, predictability of seasons, fail proof cycles of the moon, comfort of a cool breeze, and the optimism of a sunny and clear day, are vital to our well-being.

During these uncertain times, Lotusland — and its 37 most pristine acres of cultivated gardens and raw native lands — reminds us that we may place our trust in nature.

Lotusland, as an organization, is carefully minding our pennies and our people, and conserving and balancing our resources to make certain we are able to remain here for your inspiration and enjoyment. Our collective prudence and patience will see us through these difficult times. While individual guest visitation remains in high demand, our ability to operate has been severely impacted by the ramifications of COVID-19 and we have experienced major shortfalls in group ticket sales, and limited fundraising events.

Please keep supporting Lotusland with your membership and donations, and by doing so ensure that students, members and guests can continue to enjoy the embrace of a biological boost that makes us feel good and grounded. We are appreciative of your loyal support and shared belief in the many benefits of a garden.

As Always,

Rebecca Anderson
Executive Director
randerson@lotusland.org

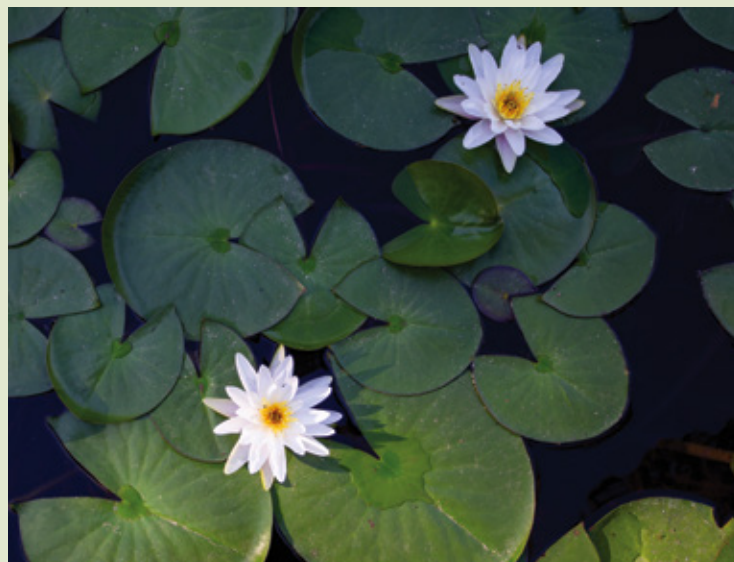
MISSION

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.

FALL 2020

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LOTUSLAND: HAPPY HOUR HAPPENINGS

Meet Our New Executive Director

Zoom Meeting on October 15 at 5:00 PM

Grab a glass and join us at 5:00 PM on Thursday, October 15 for a Lotusland Zoom Happy Hour to meet and toast Rebecca and discuss the Garden's past, present and future.

"I am honored to work with a committed board and an outstanding staff and volunteers to protect and preserve this historic garden and to collectively ensure a bright, healthy and sustainable future for Lotusland and its collections." — Rebecca Anderson

**Find the zoom meeting link at
www.lotusland.org/zoommeeting**



THE LOTUSLAND EFFECT

How Gardens Heal Us

By Nikki Evans, PhD

LOTUSLAND HAS A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FEEL THESE DAYS. The sense of oasis is acutely palpable as people stroll serenely down the main drive, pause to peer out across the Japanese Garden pond, or watch the bees buzz in the Insectary. Donning masks and stopping for hand sanitizer, signs of the times, visitors nonetheless find a world that takes them outside of their own lives as they experience the otherworldly gardens of Ganna. In some ways, Lotusland's gardens are timeless, seemingly unchanged by the chaos of the year that has transpired outside of the surrounding pink walls. In other ways, the enduring presence of the gardens has new significance against the backdrop of the uncertain times in which we are living.

In addition to a global pandemic, the world is facing a mental health crisis. According to a survey administered by the US Census Bureau in response to COVID-19, over one-third of Americans (36%) are experiencing symptoms of clinical anxiety and/or



depression. That number is astoundingly high among 18-29 year olds at nearly half (46.8%). For most, February feels a lifetime ago; a time when children went to school on packed buses and played on playgrounds, adults went into busy workplaces and enjoyed local establishments on the weekends; we hugged our loved ones and traveled to exotic places. Then the pandemic sent us into quarantine. It also sent many of

us into a prolonged fight-or-flight mode. Fight-or-flight is the body's response to a perceived threat. Evolutionarily, it is essential for our survival, but often proves to be maladaptive in our modern world, and is associated with anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and a suite of other mental and physical ailments. Our fight-or-flight modes are in overdrive. We have a remedy right here in our own backyard.



During this time in history, many have found solace in the gardens of their lives. In fact, gardens have seen a boon in interest since the Pandemic hit. A major seed seller in the US, Burpee Seeds, reported selling more seeds in March 2020 than any other time in their 144 year history. Seeds and gardening materials have flown off the shelves. While food anxiety certainly has played a role, gardens have also provided a space



now, bringing a calm mindfulness to our lives. This is just the tip of the iceberg. Linda Buzzell, a local therapist and author of the book *Ecotherapy: Healing with Nature in Mind* shared with us, “There is now an amazing amount of good scientific research supporting the effectiveness of nature connection therapies like horticultural therapy, walks outdoors and deep connection with animals, gardens and wild places.

Science shows that gardens can take us out of fight-or-flight and into rest-and-digest mode.

for people to find refuge, intimacy with nature, and solace amidst the turmoil. Science is just catching up to what many of us have known intuitively: gardens are good for us.

Science shows that gardens can take us out of fight-or-flight and into rest-and-digest mode. This latter mode is where mental and physical healing occurs. Nature has been proven to provide feelings of physical wellbeing and improve our immune functioning. Nature helps with anxiety, PTSD, and depression. One mechanism is the feeling of awe we get in nature, which is characterized by a sense of the vastness and complexity of the world around us. This experience reduces the felt size of our problems. Nature also helps to restore our attention to the here and

I haven't discovered even *one* study saying that contact with some aspect of the rest of nature doesn't improve our wellbeing!” Dr. Buzzell also shared ways we can experience these benefits, “Almost any type of nature-contact has been shown to be healing - even pictures of landscapes on walls - but of course immersing ourselves in beautiful gardens, lovely parks, lush hiking trails or being around water will be especially healing. Lotusland offers all of these benefits and more.”

While Ganna Walska may not have known the science behind it, she felt the healing power of her gardens. Ganna lived a packed life chasing many pursuits before coming to Santa Barbara and devoting the last 43 years of her life to the creation of Lotusland. The lure of

the gardens kept her here. In a letter to a friend in 1950, she shared, “I work in the garden which is the only thing that rests me- and a rest I certainly needed and very badly.” We can feel connected to Ganna in knowing that she found the same kind of solace in her gardens that many of us continue to find in Lotusland.

Gardens are a place where nature and culture intersect, and where humans can foster a relationship with nature. This relationship is something we crave as part of our evolutionary heritage dating back to our time as hunters and foragers. Nature is not just a luxury, but is essential for our wellbeing. On April 24, 2020, the County of Santa Barbara declared places for outdoor recreation, including botanic gardens, on the list of essential businesses, allowing Lotusland to reopen and resume fulfilling its mission to educate, inspire, and advance our appreciation of the importance of plants in our lives. Gardens and other green spaces are vital support for tackling the mental health crisis and improving public health. We are honored to be able to offer Lotusland as a refuge for those seeking calm and solace in their lives during these times and moving forward.



Horticultural Happenings

REPLACING THE IRREPLACEABLE, PART 2

GARDENS ARE DYNAMIC AND EVER CHANGING. From seedling to senescence, plants have a limit to how long they live – some complete their entire life cycle in less than one year and others over the course of millennia. We do our best at Lotusland to keep the plant collections alive and thriving but like everything, eventually a plant's health declines.

This was the case with one of the most iconic plants at Lotusland. An old, original weeping *Euphorbia ingens* recently had to be removed in front of the main house because of declining health. It was part of the 1942 landscape transformation that Madame Ganna Walska created together with acclaimed landscape architect Lockwood de Forest. The plant had become a hazard, shedding a large limb with additional dead branches and a large cavity entirely through the trunk. We were able to save a few cuttings of the plant to cultivate for the future.



With a grant from the Garden Club of Santa Barbara we have transplanted a large weeping *E. ingens* from close by on the main drive to fill the vacant spot and restore the original planting. We worked with Steve Hanson Landscaping to prepare the plant for the move and Doug Coale of Mesa Tree Company to move the replacement plant using a crane. Much care was taken to prepare and support the plant for transport. This plant is tough yet delicate at the same time so a wooden box and crate were built to encase the plant's root ball. Crossing boards and lashings were used wherever needed to secure as many limbs as possible to keep the brittle arms from breaking. The planting bed was prepared by Lotusland's grounds staff. Golden barrel cacti, rocks, lava mulch and old roots were removed and even some of the original 1942 obsidian mulch used by Lockwood de Forest was found. The soil was amended with a sandy soil mix and sifted compost.

Succulents such as *E. ingens* are known to be good at recovering from transplant, having plenty of stored energy to regenerate roots so it will be no time until this plant is re-established and thriving. — Paul Mills

LOTUSLAND'S ARCHIVES

Ganna Walska: Philanthropist

By Rose Thomas, Lotusland Research Associate

LITTLE HAS BEEN PRINTED ABOUT Madame Ganna Walska's benevolence. She believed that broadcasting an altruistic act negated the intention of the gift. Numerous organizations and individuals were touched by her generosity. From humanitarian to cultural, Ganna Walska shared her largesse throughout her lifetime.



Many of her early concert and stage performances were done for charitable causes and relief organizations during World War I. She was known to loan out her Théâtre de Champs Élysées for

fundraising events and in 1969 gave the theatre to the French government for a token sum.

Although she never had children, she had a great fondness for them. A photo shows her sitting on the floor, surrounded by the toys and dolls she collected from friends and acquaintances. On Christmas day, 1929, she personally distributed them to the children of Paris policemen.

Gladly stepping out of the limelight after her move to Montecito, she devoted herself to creating the gardens of Lotusland while continuing to contribute to causes nationally and abroad. She provided continual financial support to the Music Academy of the West, and contributed to the Lobero Theater, Santa Barbara Symphony, Santa Barbara Zoo, Humane Society, Santa Barbara Beautiful, St. Francis Hospital, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.

Ganna Walska felt a strong responsibility to Lotusland and the garden staff. Evidence of her kindness is recorded in a 1997 letter to *Smithsonian* magazine from a retired gardener. He wrote:

I read the article on Lotusland with great interest, as I worked for the Madame before her death... I rarely see anything written about her kindness, sense of humor and whimsy, love and respect for life and things alive, or her overwhelming generosity.

She so often would come to where I was working on one of her 'special' projects, ask how my mother was, and slip a one-hundred dollar bill into my pocket, 'because things were so expensive at the market,' as she saw, and she wanted to be sure we had a little extra for food...

Ganna Walska's kindness and the help she gave to so many needs to be remembered and honored.



COLLECTIONS NEWS

A Passion for Bromeliads

By Bob and Ginny Guess

Curator's note: Valued volunteers Bob and Ginny Guess have been working with curatorial staff to document the bromeliad collection for a decade and a half.

IN 1960, Madame Ganna Walska introduced bromeliads to Lotusland. Intrigued by their dramatic forms and colors, flamboyant blooms, and habit of thriving on trees as well as in the soil, she commissioned Fritz Kubisch to surround her living quarters in the Pavilion with bromeliads. Kubisch, owner of a landscape business specializing in tropical plants and a collector who traveled frequently to Mexico, provided her with a wide selection of plants that soon flourished. This marked the beginning of the Upper Bromeliad Garden. In 1968, when she hired Bill Paylen to renovate several gardens, he moved excess plants across the Great Lawn to what became the Lower Bromeliad Garden, using the Rooster Grotto as a pivotal feature. Starting in 1971, Charles Glass enhanced this section with additional bromeliads collected in Mexico.

In 2004, when Virginia Hayes, then Curator of Living Collections, was looking for a speaker to introduce bromeliads to new docents, she turned to us. We had spent decades living in Chiapas, Mexico, studying the bromeliads of that state, and published over twenty articles on Bromeliaceae in the *Journal of the Bromeliad Society*. We were reluctant at first, aware that Lotusland had a much broader range of plants than Chiapas. Virginia finally convinced us to participate in the docent

class of January 2005. In preparation, we started to study and document the bromeliads at Lotusland. What began as a one-time introduction for docents has endured for fifteen years with Ginny doing the presentations using Bob's photographs. We continue to devote a morning each week to record the ever-changing exotic blooms that adorn these gardens and captivate visitors.

In 2011, Mike Furner, a member of the staff for over forty years and who worked alongside Paylen and Glass, was assigned to care for the Bromeliad Gardens. His passion and knowledge of these plants, enhanced by his aesthetic landscape talents, blended well with our enthusiasm. Two years ago, Anna Bower, Assistant Curator, assumed the daunting task of mapping and finalizing an inventory of all bromeliads. This now includes well over three hundred taxa, some of which could be offsets of original plants enjoyed by Madame. The Upper and Lower Bromeliad Gardens, the results of this teamwork and maintenance by Mike and his hardworking volunteers, are no longer just a passage to other parts of Lotusland, but rather a destination unto themselves. They stand as an enduring tribute to Madame's foresight and fascination with Bromeliaceae.

TOP LEFT: Anna Bower, Assistant Curator, works with Bob and Ginny Guess to map and inventory the Bromeliad Garden.

TOP RIGHT: Mike Furner's expert care of the bromeliads is evident in this spectacular garden.



USA TODAY READERS' CHOICE AWARDS Lotusland Ranks 6 of the 10 Best Botanical Gardens in the Country

USA TODAY 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards included Lotusland as one of Best Botanical Gardens in the Country. **Abby Meyer**, executive director of the US branch of **Botanic Gardens Conservation International** nominated Lotusland for the contest stating, "for your important contributions to plant collections, conservation, and community building you do in the Santa Barbara area, as well as across the nation and world. I admire the great work you and your team are doing." Lotusland is proud and honored to be part of this esteemed list of organizations.

Thank you to our Members and devoted supporters who voted for Lotusland's stature as the top botanic garden in the United States.



PHOTO: Kurt Boomer

EXCHANGE VOWS IN AN ENCHANTED GARDEN Say "I Do" at Lotusland

Reserve your exclusive space for an intimate ceremony, photos and an immersive garden experience. Attendees may include the couple, officiant, photographer and select guests. No additional rentals or vendors are permitted. Packages start at \$2,500 and some restrictions apply.

Please contact Kerstin Horneman, Events Manager for more information or to book your date at 805.969.3767, ext 130 or email: events@lotusland.org.



KATY PERRY, *PEOPLE* MAGAZINE

Cover Story and Online Interview

Katy Perry recently graced the cover of *People Magazine*, photographed in Lotusland's Cactus Garden. During an interview taped in the Garden, we were thrilled when Katy said Lotusland is her favorite place on Earth. We tend to agree.

A DEFINING NEW EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE LAUNCHED DURING THE PANDEMIC

Junior Botanist Program

BETWEEN MARCH AND MAY 2020, the pandemic caused the cancellation of Lotusland field trips for nearly 1,000 fourth grade students around the county and eliminated group field trips for the 2020-2021 school year. In response, Lotusland is pleased to present our **Junior Botanist Program**, a new educational experience that gives students and their families the opportunity to enjoy an informative visit to Lotusland free of charge. In keeping with a tradition of more than two decades of fourth grade education, this new program pivot provides a way for students to experience the open-air laboratory of Lotusland in our socially distanced era, and allows Lotusland to share our passion for life science education.

Using a newly developed activity guide, fourth grade students learn about the fascinating world of plant adaptations as they lead their family through the gardens on a quest to become a Junior Botanists. Guided by an illustrated character *Begonia the Botanist*, students visit plants from all around the world as they try to help *Begonia* answer the question "Why are there so many kinds of plants in the world?" This family-friendly program gives everyone the chance to enjoy time together away from screens, immersed in the natural beauty of Lotusland.

The program is open to currently enrolled fourth grade students in the County only and is offered free of charge on select days during the school year. **For more information contact Gillian Conner, Junior Botanist Program Coordinator, at gconner@lotusland.org, 805.969.3767, ext. 119.**

Sincere thanks to the generosity of the program sponsors:

American Riviera Bank

Mark Livanec, El Camino Ventures

John C. Mithun Foundation,

directed by Mercedes Millington and Jack Mithum
Steven and Marsha Nathanson



CELEBRATING LORI MESCHLER

Junior Botanists and their families will explore the garden because of this dedicated docent and ambassador

Lori Meschler's activities at Lotusland are amazingly diverse and very much appreciated. You might see her working in the garden alongside members of Lotusland's grounds staff, sharing her abundant horticultural knowledge with a group of adults on a garden tour, leading fourth graders as part of our Fourth Grade Outreach Program, and helping in nearly every aspect of Lotusland.

An exciting and generous tribute gift has been made by her dear friend Mark Livanec and his business, El Camino Ventures, in honor of Lori Meschler, to launch the redesigned life sciences education program during the pandemic.

It's fitting that this gift came at the suggestion of Lori, whose relationship with the Garden has been invaluable to Lotusland over the past two decades. Lori is always there to share her love of the garden and support its needs. When she learned the new Junior Botanist program needed support during this year of reinventing, she was the first to advocate for Lotusland. Mark stepped up to propel the program forward, and encourages others to participate as part of his tribute to Lori in appreciation of her deep devotion to Lotusland.



Lori's involvement has touched every corner of Lotusland, as a docent for both our adult and children's tours, as a garden volunteer, as a hospitality helper during events, as a Lotus Society advocate, and as a plant lover and botany purveyor.

An integral part of Lotusland's Fourth Grade Outreach program for 22 years, Lori says she "loves the fourth graders. We need to educate the next generation." Lori's warmth, enthusiasm, and plant expertise are appreciated and enjoyed by generations of Santa Barbara County students, and by their teachers and parents.



PHOTO: iheartmyroom

LOTUSLAND IN THE COMMUNITY The Garden Gives Back

Lotusland is a nonprofit public charity, and as part of our work advancing appreciation and understanding of plants and the gardens, we are always looking for new and creative ways to engage and support the community. Here are a few things we've done to support and strengthen Santa Barbara during the pandemic.

Food insecurity in Santa Barbara is at an all-time high due to the rise of COVID-19 and the associated economic downturn. To help, Lotusland has started a **fruit picking program for the Food Bank of Santa Barbara County**. To date, we have gathered more than 500 pounds of fresh fruit to help those who are food insecure. We also opened our doors to heroes helping to address hunger problems in our county. As part of our Open Pathways program, Lotusland declared September **Hunger Heroes Month** and offered free tickets to staff and volunteers of local organizations that help address food insecurity.

Our Open Pathways program enabled us to host two more fantastic community outreach tour days. This summer, a **Healthcare Heroes** day was dedicated to those working on the front line of the medical COVID-19 response. We also showed support to the local black community by offering a **free visit to the gardens for black business leaders in partnership with the founders of Pura Luna Apothecary** who helped to organize the day.

The pandemic caused a major drop in blood donations. In June, Lotusland invited Vitalant, one of the nation's oldest blood donation nonprofits, for a staff and volunteer blood drive. Twenty-two people donated to help strengthen our community and save a life.



2020 ANNUAL APPEAL LAUNCHES Gifts for the Garden

Unusual times require unusual responses. At Lotusland we are thrilled to have the garden open for your use and enjoyment. We quickly adapted to safety measures by creating reimagined garden touring and educational experiences designed to offer tranquility to all who enter.

But, in order for our work to continue, we ask you to please consider supporting Lotusland's efforts with a gift to the garden.

Today, restoration and healing are exactly what each of us needs. The garden provides respite and recovery during these unpredictable times.

Your contribution to Lotusland supports Ganna Walska's cherished vision to educate, inspire and delight community visitors. While the experience has changed in pandemic times, Ganna Walska's vision remains as alive as ever.

We are committed to creating a positive, nurturing experience to all who enter the garden, but we can't do it alone. At this crucial moment, every gift, of any size, matters.

Please call Marily Lopez at 805.969.3767, ext. 105, go online to www.lotusland.org/giftsforthegarden, or email mlopez@lotusland.org to make your tax-deductible gift today. Thank you!

LOTUSLAND MEMBERSHIP GURU CHARTS A NEW COURSE

Bambi Leonard Retires



ROBERTA "BAMBI" LEONARD retired in September after developing and managing our highly successful Membership Program. Her nearly two decades of exceptional stewardship will continue to positively affect Lotusland long after she leaves her post this fall. Bambi's warm personal nature and welcoming smile will be missed.

To honor Bambi's service, Lotusland created a tribute book with personal accolades from staff, trustees, members, and volunteers. Some reflections on Bambi's service and style include:

"I was always greeted by your smiling face"

"I would not be where I am in my career today, if it weren't for you"

"Thanks for always demonstrating such good character"

"Your work ethic was admirable and an inspiration"

"I was always amazed by your super-powered memory bank of every member"

"Lotusland was so fortunate to have a person of your integrity and kindness for so long"

"Bambi never let us down"

Bambi's Lotusland mantra is, "It's all about the people." She holds an encyclopedic knowledge of the people and personalities who have passed through our gates. Bambi has been fortunate enough to personally know nearly every trustee, from the "visionaries" like Carol Valentine, Robert Emmons, Arthur Gaudi and Michael Towbes to Larry Durham, Dan Bifano and our current President, Lesley Cunningham. She has known or worked with many Lotusland legends: Ozzie Da Ros, Frank Fujii, John LaFleur, Bill Paylen, Mike Iven, Terri Clay, Mike Furner and many more. Bambi says, "The Gardeners? — I wouldn't have a job if it weren't for their amazing work." She is very connected to our dedicated volunteers, and is personal friends with many of them. Bambi likes to say, "They are the most special to me. The volunteers are the ones who bring us members and who help grow the program."

Bambi has performed nearly every job in the office; answering the phones, making reservations, scheduling and managing our ever-evolving events. She helped produce 20 Lotusland Celebrates galas — making these epic extravaganzas flawless and legendary (including the ones with leopards, bears and elephants).

When asked how she grew and maintained the Membership Program, she shared a few pearls of her personal management wisdom; "Be good to your staff. Learn to break free of whatever is holding you back. Keep it positive."

Perhaps Lotusland Trustee Dorothy Gardner puts it best, "Life at Lotusland will always be better because of you but never the same without you."



OWN A PIECE OF LOTUSLAND HISTORY

Redwood and Monterey Cypress Wood for Sale

This is a rare opportunity to purchase pre-milled slabs from historic Lotusland trees. Beautifully grained slabs of the Monterey Cypress that dominated the Great Lawn until 2017 are available in varying sizes. Redwood slabs from a recently felled tree are also available. Cypress and Redwood are perfect choices for outdoor decks or benches, both being weather resistant and attractive. This wood embodies Lotusland's history and beauty.

The Santa Barbara Bucket Brigade built several memorial benches out of this rarefied wood for each victim of the January 2018 Debris Flow. Lotusland wood benches are located around the community and form a network of lasting memorials to help family, friends, and community members heal. The Redwood is \$10 per foot and the Monterey Cypress is \$9 per foot. Please contact Tyler Diehl, 805.565.1310 for information on purchasing a piece of these iconic treasures.

BEYOND THE PINK WALL

07
25
20

LOTUSLAND CELEBRATES, our one-of-a-kind gala held each July since 1995, has delighted and inspired our guests as one of our community's most beloved summer gatherings. **This year Lotusland Celebrates: Beyond the Pink Wall pivoted our in-person summer soiree into a virtual event program and online auction.** With the creative event leadership, your generous donations and sponsorship, and plentiful auction donors, we have made history with Lotusland's very first virtual event!

The smashing success of the virtual event went 'Beyond the Pink Wall' with:

- › **55% increase over projected net income**
- › **32 new first-time donors**
- › **64% reduction in event expenses**
- › **6x increase in auction items**
- › **50% improvement in income-to-expense ratio**

Our pre-recorded event video was made available to our supporters on 07.25.20 and got a blast of star power with program host and Emmy Award winning actor, Finola Hughes, and an intimate musical performance in Lotusland's legendary Cactus Garden by world-renowned artist Rufus Wainwright.

A huge thank you to all our sponsors, volunteers, entertainers, underwriters, supporters, and virtual ticket buyers. This year your support was more vital than ever!

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Cyndee Howard & Lesley Cunningham
Birgit Klein & Andrew Boreen
Jennifer Blaise Kramer
Heidi Merrick
Merryl Brown Events
Mari & Hank Mitchel
Poppy Marché
Danielle Rubi
Renee Stahl Dektor
Jeffrey Romano & Stan Shayer
Nati & Michael Smith
Sotheby's
Raun L. Thorp & M. Brian Tichenor
Sheila & Rick Vitelle
Nancy & Kent Wood
Yola Mezcal
Westerlay Orchids



Rufus Wainwright performs in Lotusland's Cactus Garden for the *Lotusland Celebrates* gala pre-recorded event video.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM

Ashley Adelson
Ms. Rosalie Bean
Lois Becker & Mark Stratton
Susan Bradley
Ms. Janet Caroline Brown
Susan Brunn
Lois Burwell
Linda & Kyle Butterwick
Scout Centrella
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Ms. Michele DeCant
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Liz & John Downey
in honor of Eric Nagelmann
Winnie & Hod Dunbar
Kathy & Tom Dunlap
Tracey Dunn

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Cid Frank
Rita French
Dolores & Frederick Gillmore
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Judith Nero
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Dr. Richard Ross
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& Mark Schneiderman
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The Spivey Family Foundation,
directed by Cynthia & Eric Spivey

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Ellen & James Zissler

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Robert J. Emmons

EVENT CHAIRS

David M. Jones
Caroline Thompson

CHAIR EMERITA

Belle Hahn

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Oz Arconian
Xorin Balbes
Krista Blake
Winnie Dunbar
Carolyn Fitzgerald
Jennie Grube
Belle Hahn
Jeannette Hahn
Megan Kent
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Mimi Michaelis
Alexandra Morse
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Connie Pearcy
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Heather Rosenfield
Nati Smith
Cate Stoll
Kim Thomas

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Lily Hahn
Ashley Hollister
Sarah Jenkins
Bridget Gless Keller
Fran Kirchmair



HOLIDAY GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Give a green and long-lasting present

This holiday give a heartfelt gift that lasts for the entire year — a Lotusland Membership. With the purchase of a gift membership, you will introduce your family and friends to the awe and wonder of Lotusland, including the newly renovated Japanese Garden. If you start your family or friends at a beginning level membership, they can upgrade their membership level any time to add more robust benefits. Members enjoy early-bird event discounts, savings at nearly 20 regional garden and nursery shops and free admission to Lotusland! To give a gift membership simply call 805.969.3767, ext. 115, buy at www.lotuslandshop.org, or email membership@lotusland.org with questions. Lotusland will send the gift membership packet to your friend or family member.

Lotusland gift memberships are packaged and beautifully wrapped (see photo). It's easy to have this perfect gift to give to your special someone. Enclosed is a certificate with instructions on how to activate the membership. Gift memberships are available for Individual (\$125), Dual (\$225), Family (\$250) or Friend (\$385) levels. Order before December 10 and we will include a set of six beautiful Lotusland note cards.



THANK YOU TO OUR GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS

STEWARD

Adelita Candelaria & Kaleb Bell
Julie & Roger Davis
Suzanne & Gilbert Mathews
Connie & John Percy
Jackie & Jeff Schaffer
Lynda Weinman & Bruce Heavin

GUARDIAN

Jennifer Appenrodt & Chris Sewell
Ms. Loren Booth
Tania & John Burke
Sophie & Derek Craighead
Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Constance
Janice Feldman & Mitchell Grossman
Ted Friedel & Coleen Richardson Friedel
Mr. Arthur R. Gaudi
Mr. Paul F. Glenn
Melinda Goodman-Kemp & Robert Kemp
Cyndee Howard & Lesley Cunningham
Carole MacElhenny
Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Uwé Rollé
Jeffrey Romano & Stan Shayer
Patty & Michael Rosenfeld
Jay & Talia Roston
Stephen P. Schaible & Daron S. Buita
Mrs. Judy Shea
Mrs. Anitra P. Sheen
Jill Taylor & Ray Link
Mr. Christopher J. Toomey

ABOVE: Guests enjoy a Member Appreciation Al Fresco Summer Picnic

WISH LIST

Help Advance Lotusland's Mission

Cushman Hauler Pro for Grounds and Facilities

Hauler Pro for Grounds and Facilities staff at Lotusland. Many of the carts used by the garden and facilities staff are old and require regular repair. We hope to purchase a new and reliable cart for daily use in a myriad of projects to improve our efficiency on work throughout the gardens. \$13,000



Repair and Paint our Iconic Pink Wall

Lotusland's pink wall is in dire need of repair and painting. Santa Barbara architect George Washington Smith designed this distinctive Lotusland feature. Restoration of Lotusland's exterior improves our neighborhood and visitor impression. Repairs total \$80,000; gifts of any amount are deeply appreciated.



Cycad Assurance Nursery Area



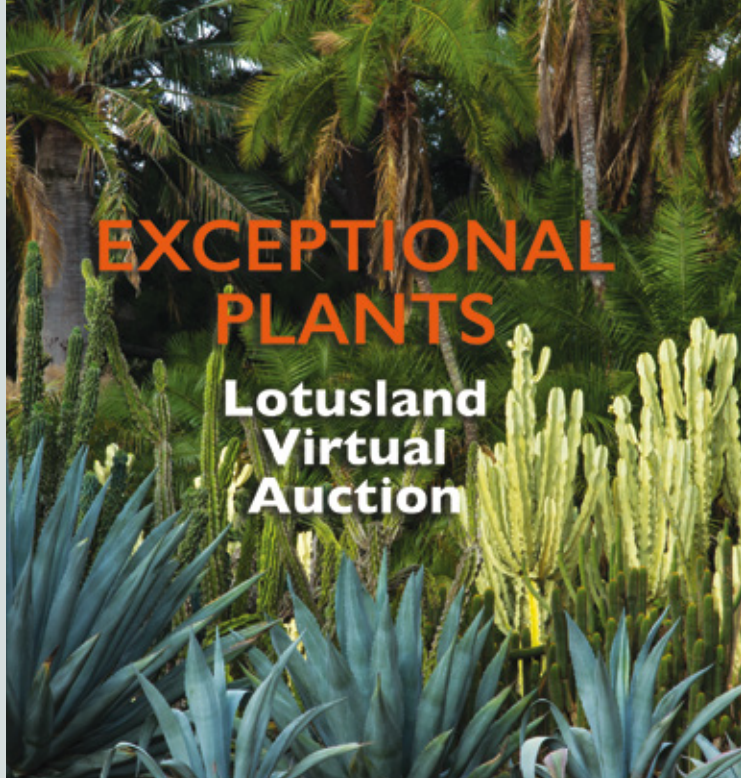
Lotusland is building a secure growing area to protect our Earth's most threatened cycads. This raised-bed, secure planting area will facilitate our continued propagation efforts for critically endangered cycads in collaboration with partner

institutions across the globe. \$100,000.

At this crucial moment, we are gratefully accepting donations of any size to support these projects.



To donate, please call
805.969.3767, ext. 104,
or visit www.lotusland.org/support.



RARE PLANT AUCTION GOES ONLINE Exceptional Plants 2020

Lotusland's signature plant auction, Exceptional Plants, will be online for the first time! A small, choice selection of plants have been selected for this year's virtual event. The auction will feature two different *Encephalartos woodii* hybrids as well as other special plants. After the auction, plants will be available for pick up here at Lotusland or local delivery may be arranged.

Bidding opens on Tuesday, October 6 at 10:00 AM and ends on Saturday, October 17 at 3:30 PM. Be sure to bid early - go to www.lotusland.org/plantauction.



Encephalartos horridus x woodii



Encephalartos trispinosus x woodii

UPCOMING EVENTS



Halloween Monstera Mash: A Boo-tanical Stroll through Lotusland

Friday, October 30
3:00 to 5:30 PM

Saturday, October 31
10:00 AM to 12:30 PM
& 3:00 to 5:30 PM

GATHER YOUR LITTLE GARDEN GOBLINS for a spooky boo-tanical stroll. Follow the map to find poisonous plants, creepy creatures, and more. Costumes are encouraged for all ages, and masks are required. Space is limited and advance reservations required. To maintain social distancing, groups must be six or fewer. Call 805.969.9990 for reservations.

Members \$35 Adults,
\$20 Children age 3-17
Free age 2 and under.

Non-Members \$60 Adults,
\$30 Children age 3-17,
Free age 2 and under.

Autumn Afternoons: Picnic at Lotusland

Tuesday, October 6
3:00 to 6:00 PM

Tuesday, October 20
3:00 to 6:00 PM

Tuesday, November 17
1:00 to 4:00 PM *(Members Only)*

Saturday, November 28
1:00 to 4:00 PM *(Members Only)*

THIS INVITATION IS A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY for Members and guests to enjoy an intimate al fresco picnic on the Great Lawn. Bring a blanket, food and your favorite beverage (alcohol is allowed). Only bring what you can carry from the Visitor Center, as picnics must be self-contained for safety and ease. The Great Lawn provides plenty of shady spaces to spread out, relax and unwind. After your picnic, take time to explore. Masks are required except when eating and drinking. Space is limited, and advance reservations are required. To maintain social distancing, guest reservations must be for six or fewer and arrive in one vehicle. Call 805.969.9990 for reservations.

Members \$35 Adults,
\$20 Children age 3-17
Free age 2 and under.

Non-Members \$60 Adults,
\$30 Children age 3-17,
Free age 2 and under.



Join us for our new series: Lessons from Lotusland

ONLINE PROGRAMS:

The Dunlap Cactus Collection and How it Came to Lotusland

Monday, October 26, 2020
6:00 to 7:00 PM

Paul Mills, Curator of Living Collections

Ganna Walska: Out of the Limelight and into the Garden

Tuesday, November 17, 2020
6:00 to 7:00 PM

Rose Thomas, Lotusland Research Associate

GRAB A DRINK and log into our virtual seminar series, Lessons from Lotusland, for an inside glimpse into the Garden and its creators. Be sure to have your conversation questions ready for the Q&A.

To register please visit
www.lotusland.org/LessonsfromLotusland.

Free for Garden Lover Members (\$600 and above)
\$10 General Members
\$15 Non-Members

LOTUSLAND GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES DONORS

March, April, May, June, July, and August 2020

THE LOTUS SOCIETY NEW MEMBERS

Sue Mantle Diccio

ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Mary Scott

GRANTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

Jeff Chemnick & Satie Aïramé, Ph.D.

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directed by Philip Pollastrino

JAPANESE GARDEN RENOVATION

Alexandra & Charles Morse
Sheila & Rick Vitelle
Nora McNeely Hurley & Michael Hurley and
the Manitou Fund

ADOPT-A-LANTERN PROGRAM

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Ronald & Sherri Adler
Allyson S. & Todd Aldrich
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in honor of Mark Hepler
Beverly Hills Garden Club
Maureen & Edward Bousa
Cheryl Burke
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in honor of Eric Nagelmann
Ms. Linda Clough
Ms. Jane Copelan
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Coyne
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in honor of Peggy Wiley
Allison & Tim Dittmann
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Mr. Dennis John Jurcak
Lauren Katz
Bailey Keith
David Lindner
Judith A. Little
Mr. Harlis Maggard
*in honor of the birthdays of
Lori Meschler and Marie Campbell*
Delle Maxwell
Ms. Lorraine M. McDonnell & Mr. M. Stephen
Weatherford
Nora McNeely Hurley & Michael Hurley
*in appreciation of Rebecca Anderson, staff, and
volunteers of Lotusland*
Nora McNeely Hurley
*in honor of Michael Hurley for 20 years of
wedded bliss*
Alexandra & Charles Morse
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Colleen & Lars Poulsen
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 Elizabeth & John Weems
 Brooke & Michael Wilding
 Barbara & Willie Wood
 Kristiann & Tony Zehr

NEW GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS

We welcome new **Garden Lover Members** who joined in March, April, May, June, July and August 2020

NEW GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS

STEWARD

Adelita Candelaria & Kaleb Bell

GUARDIAN

Jennifer Appenrodt & Chris Sewell

CONSERVATOR

Deirdre & Will Arntz
 Cindy & Shawn Hatlestad

CULTIVATOR

JANUS et Cie
 Angela & Svend Lerche
 Kelly Sullivan

ADVOCATE

Diane & William Bloodgood
 James R. McGinnis & James H. Bain III
 Natalie Noone & Eric Pressly
 Lisa & Mike Schlager
 Leslie Thomas & Richard Salzberg
 Susan & Dave Torrey



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Volunteer at Lotusland

Lotusland volunteers are the lifeblood of the Garden. More than 250 volunteers share their time and talents with Lotusland throughout the year. Garden Attendants welcome and support self-guiding visitors and serve as the friendly face of Lotusland. Volunteer interactions with visitors are socially distanced, and masks are required for visitors and volunteers. Garden Attendant shifts are three hours and no prior knowledge is needed. Join our valued volunteers and help the garden to grow! More information can be found at www.lotusland.org/support/volunteer or contact Kitty Thomassin, Volunteer Manager, by email at kthomassin@lotusland.org.

LOTUSLAND GARDEN SHOP

Locally Handcrafted Gifts

Beautifully turned wood bowls made from Lotusland's olive trees by artist Don Scott are available in Lotusland's Garden Shop and online at lotuslandshop.org. Members save 10% on all purchases. www.lotuslandshop.org.



FROM LEFT:
4 1/2" tall by 5" wide \$95.00
5" tall by 9" wide \$150.00
4" tall by 12" wide \$165.00

GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS RENEWING OR INCREASING LEVEL OF SUPPORT

March, April, May, June, July and August 2020

GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS

STEWARD

Ted Friedel & Coleen Richardson Friedel
Jackie & Jeff Schaffer *
Lynda Weinman & Bruce Heavin

GUARDIAN

Ms. Loren Booth
Melinda Goodman-Kemp & Robert Kemp *
Tania & John Burke
Carole MacElhenny
Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree
Patty & Michael Rosenfeld
Stephen P. Schaible & Daron S. Builta
Mrs. Judy Shea
Mr. Christopher J. Toomey

CONSERVATOR

Marcia & John Mike Cohen
Carolyn Cooper & Glenn Griffith
Linda & Fred Gluck
Ms. Judith A. Little
Maureen & Marty McDermut *
Mr. David H. Murdock
Kate Schepanovich

CULTIVATOR

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Pamela & Michael Avnaim
Ann & Robert Benham
Susan Brunn
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Nancy & Michael Gifford
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Dee & Stephen Jones *
Bonnie Kelm & Bill Malis *
Kim & Soren Kieler
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Mr. Harlis Maggard
Joseph Marek & John Bernatz
Lori Kraft Meschler
Mimi Michaelis
Alexandra & Charles Morse
Mr. Eric Nagelmann
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Mitchell E. Opalski
Suzanne Rheinstein
Dr. Richard Ross
Anastasha Rousso & Evan Berger *
Leslie Cane Schneiderman
& Mark Schneiderman
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Christie William & Morgan William
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Fall 2020 Events

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

**Tuesday, October 6 to
Saturday, October 17**
Exceptional Plants Sale ONLINE
See page 15

Tuesday, October 6
Autumn Afternoons:
Picnic at Lotusland
3:00 to 6:00 PM
See page 16

Tuesday, October 20
Autumn Afternoons:
Picnic at Lotusland
3:00 to 6:00 PM
See page 16

Monday, October 26
Lessons from Lotusland: Paul Mills
6:00 to 7:00 PM
See page 16

Friday, October 30
Halloween Monstera Mash
3:00 to 5:30 PM
See page 16

Saturday, October 31
Halloween Monstera Mash
10:00 AM to 12:30 pm
& 3:00 to 5:30 PM
See page 16

Tuesday, November 17
Autumn Afternoons:
Picnic at Lotusland
1:00 to 4:00 PM (members only)
See page 16

Tuesday, November 17
Lessons from Lotusland:
Rose Thomas Online Program
6:00 to 7:00 PM
See page 16

Saturday, November 28
Autumn Afternoons:
Picnic at Lotusland
1:00 to 4:00 PM (members only)
See page 16

Arrival Times for Self-Guided Tours

Including Members

Self-guided tours start times are 9:15 AM, 9:30 AM, 9:45 AM, 1:15 PM, 1:30 PM, and 1:45 PM. Garden visits last two hours.

Reservations are available Wednesday through Saturday.

Call 805.969.9990 for reservations