

NEWSLETTER • SPRING/SUMMER 2021

LOTUSLAND'S PREEMINENT PLANT COLLECTION

Cycads: The Most Threatened Plant Group on the Planet



695 Ashley Road Santa Barbara, California 93108 805.969.3767 • www.lotusland.org

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

What is it at Lotusland that most inspires you?

For me, inspiration drawn from the Garden changes daily. One day it might be the sound of a birdsong, the pattern on the black bamboo, or the sheer scale of the *Dracaena*



draco. Other times it is a cycad coning or the rhythmic flow of falling water. Truly, everywhere you look at Lotusland is inspiring, and to immerse in the beauty and embrace of nature provides comfort and a sense of connection.

Inspiration at Lotusland is endless. Nature provides a sanctuary, a place to return to for a wellspring of enhanced health, vitality and comfort. It is fitting that our first online art sale and companion exhibition at GraySpace gallery that opened on Earth Day, is entitled *Sanctuary*. This collaboration has brought together the best of the region's extended community with the inspired responses of the

thirty-six local artists who have been excitedly exploring and creating with material from the Garden in recent months.

Lotusland's community volunteers and Exhibition curators, the dynamic team of Ashley Woods Hollister and Casey Turpin, invited this diverse group of makers and artists who have been creating with material from the Garden this spring. Each participating artist responded to the Sanctuary theme in a completely personal and original interpretation, with an artful array of landscapes, photographs, sculpture, and even surfboards depicting their impressions of the verdant landscape of Lotusland. All of their sales support our sustainability programs, to further promote the abundance of and healthful benefits of an organic and regenerative garden.

This Exhibition and Sale advances our work in sharing our sustainability practices beyond the pink walls, as well as provides exceptional care for Lotusland's living collections.

Don't forget to schedule a visit to Lotusland this season to draw your own inspiration from our majestic garden to help cultivate your interpretation of nature as a sanctuary.

To your inspiration,

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.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Happy Spring everyone! In our last issue we celebrated our outstanding volunteer corps. In this issue, I get to celebrate one particular volunteer who has been absolutely instrumental in Lotusland's recent successes by announcing that Connie Flowers Pearcy has been named as a Lifetime Honorary Trustee.



Connie's prestigious new title follows many others that she has held over the years: volunteer, committee member, Board member, Board President, and now, Lifetime Honorary Trustee. Connie's involvement with Lotusland started in 2010, when she served on the Development

Committee. Connie has served on the Lotusland Celebrates Committee and the Nominating Committee. She quickly grew into Lotusland leadership, serving as the Development Committee Chair from 2012 through 2015. From 2013-2018, Connie was a member of the Executive Committee, serving as the Board's Vice President in 2013. In 2014, Connie served as the First Vice President and, from 2015 through 2017, she served as the Board President. Connie remained on the Board through 2020.

But Connie's leadership has not been limited to the extraordinary amount of time that she dedicated to Lotusland, for Connie has also been an incredibly generous donor to Lotusland. Her gifts include funds that enabled us to drill a new well to continue our sustainable gardening practices with assurance of ample water; and she funded "Connie's Potties" at three of our Lotusland Celebrates parties! Connie has been a leading sponsor of Celebrates; and she made a generous donation to the Japanese Garden renovation. Connie has been an ardent supporter of the Exceptional Plants events, and has consistently made generous gifts to our Gifts for the Garden annual campaigns. Connie has simply been indispensable to the success and future of Lotusland.

And if all of that were not enough, Connie has agreed to lead our forthcoming Philanthropy Committee, about which you



will hear more in the future. When you see Connie in the Garden or around town, please be sure to thank her for all that she has done for Lotusland!

Lesley Cunningham, President, Board of Trustees



CYCADS ARE A FASCINATING, ancient lineage of cone bearing plant, many of which have an uncanny resemblance to palms. They were a dominant part of the flora during the Jurassic Period, so much so that the Age of the Dinosaurs was also known as the Age of the Cycads. Modern day cycads are much different than the plants the dinosaurs munched on and have diversified from a few lineages approximately 12 million years ago. Their current geographic distribution spans throughout the tropics and subtropics. As dioecious plants, each is a different sex and they have a unique pollination method involving insects that are typically specific to a certain cycad. The insects tend to spend the majority of their lifecycle in the male cone and as pollen is shed, the cone begins to heat up and volatizes chemical compounds to flush out the insects. With pollen attached, the female cone entices the pollen laden insects to enter with a similar mechanism. Lacking these native pollinators here at Lotusland, we mimic the insects, artificially pollinating the female cones with harvested pollen that is injected into the receptive female cone. Not only do we propagate cycads for

Garden Shop sales and our Exceptional Plants auction, but we especially keep an eye out for plants of conservation value.

In terms of scientific research and plant conservation, the cycad collection is the most important plant collection at Lotusland. The collection contains over 450 specimens and more than 40% of all the known species. Within the collection 43% of the species are threatened with extinction and five are believed to be extinct in the wild, existing only in gardens such as Lotusland. According to renowned cycad expert and Lotusland Research Associate Jeff Chemnick, "Lotusland's cycad collection is one of the 10 most important in a public garden anywhere in the world today."

As cycads and plants in general become more threatened botanic gardens and their conservation networks are more relevant than ever as they become increasingly interconnected and function as collaborative units that work across borders. Much as zoos do with animals, botanic gardens are important life rafts for threatened species ensuring they don't go extinct, working to reverse the trend through captive breeding programs. Cycads are considered the



TOP: Encephalartos latifrons x altensteinii ABOVE: Encephalartos heenanii

most threatened plant group on the planet – some experts say the most threatened group of organisms.

Throughout the years, Lotusland has worked to support efforts towards cycad conservation by joining and being involved with many of the organizations that are contributing to saving cycads around the world. The cycad collection at Lotusland is part of an accredited multi-site collection of







CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Encephalartos woodii cones; Paul Mills pollinating Encephalartos lehmannii; pollinated Encephalartos horridus x lonaifolius seeds.

the American Public Garden Association's (APGA) Plant Collection Network together with Montgomery Botanical Center, UC Botanic Garden at Berkeley and the San Diego Zoo. The Plant Collection Network acknowledges the global importance of these individual collections and the high level of horticultural and curatorial care that they receive. Since no single garden has the capacity to conserve all cycads, this meta-collection helps to close gaps in conservation needs and collections coverage.

Lotusland is an active member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission's Cycad Specialist Group (CSG). The IUCN is the largest conservation organization in the world and the CSG is a group of global experts and conservationists whose main goal is to halt further extinctions of cycads.

Having recently become a reality, Botanic Garden Conservation International's (BGCI) Global Conservation Consortium for Cycads (GCCC) will function as a joint effort with the IUCN SSC CSG to "enhance durable conservation of cycad diversity" with Lotusland and other institutions being "particularly critical to this endeavor" according to Vanessa Handley, Chair of the GCCC. One of the goals is to develop Assurance Colonies for critically endangered and extinct in the wild cycad species. These are not only an assurance against extinction but act as off-site breeding programs for these "exceptional" species - those whose seeds cannot be seed banked in traditional methods of drying and freezing but must be conserved as living plants. Lotusland is already collaborating with the GCCC and is recognized as an Assurance Colony for Encephalartos heenanii (see sidebar) and will surely include other species in the near future.

Madame Ganna Walska achieved her vision to "develop Lotusland to its maximum capacity into the most outstanding center of horticultural significance and of educational use."

Today we build on her dream, helping to conserve some of the most threatened plants on the planet.



ONE THE HORIZON A Secure Growing Facility for Encephalartos heenanii Cycad Assurance Colony

Ganna Walska Lotusland is working with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's **Species Survival Commission** Cycad Specialist Group and the newly formed Botanic Gardens Conservation International's Global Conservation Consortium for Cycads to develop an ex situ assurance colony for Encephalartos heenanii, a South African cycad now believed to be extinct in the wild. In 2011 Lotusland produced seed of *E. heenanii* for the first time ever in the United States and what is most likely the first time in a public garden anywhere. This project signifies the first action in a revised Species Survival Action Plan for E. heenanii and we are collaborating with colleagues in South Africa to set the groundwork for future reintroductions. We must raise another \$50,000 to construct this new secure growing facility with raised beds to grow E. heenanii and other important plants more quickly to maturity for future propagation.

To help or learn more contact Paul Mills for more information, pmills@lotusland.org.

Horticultural Happenings

TAKING ACTION TO SAVE OUR CYCADS

ARMILLARIA, OR OAK ROOT FUNGUS, is a naturally occurring pathogenic fungus that significantly affects various plant groups at Lotusland. We have discovered over the years that when we find an infected plant there is a woody host in the soil nearby in the form of a buried tree stump or large root. Armillaria exists as a saprophyte on this dead plant material and from there infects surrounding plants. When a plant is seen declining from Armillaria it is already heavily infected causing roots to rot and showing the tell-tale white mycelium around the base of the plant.

In December 2019 Lotusland detected an alarming profusion of *Armillaria* mushrooms in part of the Cycad Garden. In December 2020 staff saw another flare up of *Armillaria* with mushrooms appearing at the base of additional cycads. This area houses plants in the Mexican genus *Dioon* including some rare and threatened species.

In pictures from the mid-1970s, when the garden was being constructed, there appears to be some *Eucalyptus* trees in this area. In the intervening years many of these trees were removed to allow for more sun yet the stumps remained. We believe these remnant stumps are the source of the *Armillaria* that has infected 25 plants in the area and unfortunately, may be affecting other adjacent plants. These 25 plants have already been removed, excised of infected tissue and are re-rooting in the nursery.

We are currently working to raise funds for an emergency renovation of this portion of the Garden in which we will use the same methods of a successful *Armillaria* remediation two decades ago in a different part of the Cycad Garden. The project entails hiring a contractor to excavate the site and remove roots, stumps and infected soil. Lotusland staff will direct the excavation and the removal of additional plants. The contractor will install drainage throughout much of the garden. A custom soil mix and amendments determined by Lotusland staff will be brought in and plants will be re-planted, irrigation installed and the area mulched. We have additional plants of *Dioon* in the nursery from a collecting expedition in 2004 and this will afford us the opportunity to plant and display these special plants. —*Paul Mills, Curator of the Living Collections*





LEFT: Armillaria at the base of a Dioon edule. This plant did not survive. **RIGHT:** Stems of Dioon califanoi and D. sonorense excised of infected rotten tissue. Now being re-rooted. (Photos: Paul Mills)

BY THE EARLY 1970S Madame Walska had amassed one of the greatest cycad collections in the country. Today, Lotusland is successfully engaged in the critical work of protecting threatened and endangered species of plants from around the world and saving them from extinction. Among those plants are Cycads – some of the most threatened plants on the planet. As the Garden was being built, Charlie Glass (the first garden director), wrote Madame, "This will be one of the greatest achievements of our lives."

Today, more than 40% of the species in Lotusland's Cycad collection are threatened with extinction and *at least three are already extinct in the wild* – they exist **only** in botanical gardens. Lotusland is at the forefront of the international scientific community to save these rarest of plants. Your support helps to advance and accelerate this critical work, and ensure Lotusland's participation, prominence, and impact in the global conservation community.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION MATTERS!

Gifts of all sizes have a big impact. To make a gift to Save the Cycads, please contact Patricia Sadeghian, Donor Relations Manager 805.969.3767, ext. 125 or psadeghian@lotusland.org, or give online at www.lotusland.org/cycad.



A SPECIAL JAPANESE BLACK PINE

(*Pinus thunbergii*) was recently moved to its new home at Lotusland. This pine tree was decades in the making, enmeshed with Lotusland's history.

Frank Fujii, one of the original designers of Lotusland's Japanese Garden, received a call from Catherine Gainey in the mid 1980s, requesting he prune her pine trees. She had ten pine trees that were surrounded by six eight-foothigh junipers that had taken over her front yard. Frank started the process of bringing structure into these large pines. He believed that they should look as natural as possible and never wanted trees that were unnaturally shaped into balls—this was Mrs. Gainey's philosophy as well.

I began working at Lotusland in 1986 and Frank began mentoring me in the artform of Japanese-style pruning. I often helped him with his other work, and it was then that I took over the

pruning of Mrs. Gainey's pine trees. That was 33 years ago and continue to prune them to this day.

While this specialized pruning follows many meticulous bonsai (tray planting or plant in a container/pot) guidelines, Frank preferred a more naturalistic niwaki (garden tree) style. Bonsai and niwaki share many of the same foundations for pruning and maintenance; there are similarities, such as striving to recreate the beauty of nature on a much smaller scale and pruning trees to look older than they really are. I often say this technique takes years to learn and understand, but moments to appreciate.

When working on a tree you are thinking about a plan, from the first year to far into the future, decades down the line. These trees are living artforms that as an artist you have a hand in shaping. After understanding the many guidelines and fundamentals, you delve into the tree. Key to the process is allowing the character or the essence of that tree to dictate your approach and finding the beauty in the tree and bringing it out. You must incorporate a knowledge of horticulture into this process to keep the tree healthy. Doing so can extend the lifespan of these cultivated trees beyond that of their wild counterparts.

One of the biggest challenges Japanese gardens face today is the loss of skilled craftspeople to maintain and prune specimen trees. Many gardens have gone the way of creating ball shapes all over a tree. It can take years for a tree to recover from this damage. We strive to pass on traditions, historical context, and knowledge while pruning. With the support of Lotusland to teach gardeners and volunteers, I am passing on the knowledge just as Frank Fujii did with me. Out of respect for Madame's legacy and Frank's vision, these techniques will continue into the future.

For more than 35 years Mrs. Gainey appreciated what went into caring for these pine trees and she always supported the extra time and effort that went into creating these beautifully sculpted trees, most of them reaching 15-20 feet. Sadly, Mrs. Gainey passed away last year. The Gainey family has generously donated a black pine tree in honor of their mom to hold a special place at the new Bank Lantern entrance to the Japanese Garden. Moving this tree to Lotusland was no small feat. With the hard work of Steve Hanson Landscaping's crew it took three days to bring it to its new home. A special thank you to longtime Lotusland volunteer George Burtness who generously provided the funds for the move.

To learn to prune with Terri as a volunteer in the Japanese Garden, please contact Kitty Thomassin, kthomassin@lotusland.org.

LOTUSLAND'S ARCHIVES

Madame Ganna Walska: a Leader for Women's Rights

By Rose Thomas, Lotusland Research Associate

FEMINISM WAS IN THE NEWS on

November 30, 1923 when five hundred women travelled to Chicago for a conference of the National Women's Party (NWP). They met at the Rush Street family mansion of Mr. Harold McCormick and his newlywed second wife, Madame Ganna Walska. Two weeks after this meeting, an Equal Rights Amendment drafted by the NWP was introduced in Congress. It was not enacted.

A lifetime member of the NWP, Madame Walska became a more vocal feminist in 1928-29, when she stood up for the right of women to have an independent residence from their husbands. In September 1928, Ganna Walska arrived in New York from her home in Paris with numerous trunks of personal effects for her upcoming American concert tour. Claiming that she was a non-resident, she refused to pay \$1,000,000 in duties. When she proved that she had bought most of her possessions in the US before going to France her customs

liability dwindled to \$40.20. A *New York Times* article stated that "she fought with characteristic tenacity and much publicity for the principle involved."

Testifying on the witness stand in federal customs court, other newspaper articles of the time quoted her as saying, "This is not a personal matter, nor is it to avoid paying the duty. I am fighting now to establish the legal equality of women in the eyes of the United States government and recognition of a wife's right to live where she chooses."

In February 1929 Ganna Walska, along with a delegation of members of the NWP, came to Capitol Hill in Albany to speak on the issue and meet with (then) Governor Franklin Roosevelt. During her appeal before the New York Judiciary Committee Ganna Walska asked that the separate domicile bill be amended to include legacy rulings and taxation. The domicile measure passed the assembly that March, but in such a form as to only

provide that women could vote or hold office at their place of residency.

Ever the optimist, Ganna Walska predicted that "In a few years, after the equal rights bill has passed the various State legislatures, it will be adopted by the United States Congress as an amendment to the Constitution."

To date, the nearly-century-old Equal Rights Amendment has yet to be added to the Constitution, providing equal protection under the law regardless of sex.

PICTURED: Ganna Walska meeting with New York Governor Franklin Roosevelt in 1929



Engage, Enjoy, Support

LOTUSLAND MEMBERS ARE CRITICAL TO THE GARDEN. Members provide a mainstay of support and help Lotusland to raise awareness about the importance of plant conservation as well as connecting as visitors to learn from and enjoy the Garden's botanical beauty.

Due to popular demand and to honor the strict capacity restrictions incurred by Lotusland's permitting, reservations for Lotusland admission are heavily impacted this spring and summer.

General Memberships

Effective June 1, 2021 General-level memberships (Individual, Dual, Family, Friend levels) include four annual visits. Additional Member benefits include access to exhibitions, invitations to enriching events and programs, and valuable discounts at Lotusland's Garden Shop and savings opportunities at more than a dozen local nurseries.

All visitors, including Members, must make reservations by calling 805.969.9990 in advance of your visit. Each visit must be completed before another reservation may be booked. Member admission is not guaranteed and is contingent on daily capacity.

Garden Lover Memberships

Members of \$1,000+ are a part of the *Garden Lover* Circles Program. This is a distinct group of philanthropic members with access to a dedicated staff liaison to support reservations and access to the Garden, including docent-led tours by request, and invitations to exclusive Garden tours and events.

To join as a *Garden Lover*, contact Patricia Sadeghian, Donor and Member Relations Manager, 805.969.3767, ext. 125, or psadeghian@lotusland.org For more information please visit: www.lotusland.org/membership/

Membership contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Memberships are nonrefundable and nontransferable. Benefits and pricing are subject to change.

THANK YOU TO OUR GARDEN LOVER CIRCLE MEMBERS

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Member Appreciation Picnics

Thursday, June 17 Arrival times 9:15, 9:30, 9:45 AM and 1:15, 1:30, 1:45 PM **Friday, June 18** Arrival times 9:15, 9:30, 9:45 AM and 1:15, 1:30, 1:45 PM

LOTUSLAND MEMBERS are vitally important for the preservation and enhancement of this horticultural treasure. Members may enjoy a self-contained, socially distant yet intimate picnic on Lotusland's Great Lawn with live musical entertainment. Bring your picnic blanket, food and drinks (alcohol is allowed) and only picnic items you can carry to the Great Lawn. After your picnic, take time to roam the gardens. Space is limited, advance reservations are

required. To maintain social distancing, groups must be six or fewer. Visit Lotusland.org or call 805.969.9990 for reserva-

This is a Members Only event. Members \$25 Adults, \$15 Children age 3-17, Free age 2 and Under. Member's Guests \$60 Adults, \$30 Children age 3-17, Free age 2 and Under.

LOTUSLAND CELEBRATES



IN PERSON EXHIBITION JULY 24, 2021 This Summer's Favorite Gala is Back

IN THE CAR WORLD Italians are known for an unparalleled aesthetic and masterful engineering. This artistry will be on full display on July 24 when we view exquisite automobiles from private collections. With safely staggered arrivals you will encounter the Garden as if you were the private owner, enjoying small curated encounters with cars, art, and entertainment throughout the Garden.

General admission tours begin the day, and Sponsors enjoy special advantages of dining before dusk in curated bespoke tablescape vignettes sprinkled throughout Lotusland's most iconic Gardens. Social distancing of groups enables your intimate party to experience the Garden like never before as a private oasis.

The main event is a spectacular showcase on the Great Lawn with cars representing the best of classic Italian automobile design in one of the most beautiful gardens in the world, both of which share a passion for preservation and beauty.

This curated collection of Concours quality cars includes Ferrari, Maserati, Alfa Romeo, Lamborghini, Lancia, Siata and others. These iconic Italian cars represent the best in design and sport. Guests will also discover an incredible array of renowned artist installations throughout the event.

Lotusland Celebrates is the organization's largest benefit and is not to be missed. For more than two decades the summer show stopper has dazzled attendees with unique and whimsical themes, live entertainment, garden odysseys, incredible auction items, and a gathering of community raising funds to keep the Garden thriving.

Online Auction, July 15 to 25

The event includes an incredible online auction with an array of treasures, experiences, art, and jewelry.

To learn more, place a bid after July 15, or to sponsor the event visit www.lotuslandcelebrates.org.

PRESENTING SPONSOR

The Armand Hammer Foundation





LOTUSLAND CELEBRATES SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PLATINUM SPONSOR \$25,000

- Ten (10) Evening Exhibition Passes 5:00 7:00 PM with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
- Priority placement for your private dining experience for Ten (10) at an elegantly set table in one of Lotusland's most iconic gardens, including a gourmet picnic dinner by duo Events, a private bartender, and spectacular wine pairings. 6:30 8:00 PM
- Invitation to join the presenting car collectors for cocktails at Belmond El Encanto on Thursday, July 22.
- Recognition as Sponsor in Event Invitation, Website, and Event Program

GOLD SPONSOR \$15,000

- Eight (8) Evening Exhibition Passes 5:00 7:00 PM with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
- A beautifully styled table in private garden location for Eight (8) with an elegant picnic dinner by duo Events and spectacular wine pairings 6:30 – 8:00 PM
- Invitation to join the presenting car collectors for cocktails at Belmond El Encanto on Thursday, July 22.
- Recognition as Sponsor in Event Invitation, Website, and Event Program

PALLADIUM SPONSOR \$10,000

- Six (6) Evening Exhibition Passes 5:00 7:00 PM with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
- A beautifully styled table in a tranquil garden location for Six (6) with an elegant picnic dinner by duo Events and spectacular wine pairings 6:30 8:00 PM
- Invitation to join the presenting car collectors for cocktails at Belmond El Encanto on Thursday, July 22.
- Recognition as Sponsor in Event Invitation, Website, and Event Program

MERCURY SPONSOR \$7,500

- Four (4) Evening Exhibition Passes 5:00 7:00 PM with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
- A beautifully styled table in an idyllic garden location for Four (4) with an elegant picnic dinner by duo Events and spectacular wine pairings 6:30 – 8:00 PM
- Recognition as Sponsor in Event Invitation, Website, and Event Program

SILVER SPONSOR \$5.000

- Two (2) Evening Exhibition Passes 5:00 7:00 PM with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
- A beautifully styled table in an idyllic garden location for Two (2) with an elegant picnic dinner by duo Events and spectacular wine pairings 6:30 - 8:00 PM
- Recognition as Sponsor in Event Invitation, Website, and Event Program

PATRON TICKETS

BRONZE PATRON TICKETS \$3,000

- Two (2) Exhibition & Garden Day Passes
 11:00 AM -4:00 PM
- Invitation to join the presenting car collectors for cocktails at Belmond El Encanto on Thursday, July 22
- Wine & Beer and Light Fare
- Recognition as Patron in Event Invitation, Website, and Event Program
- A decadent epicurean basket of wine and gifts to-go

ZINC PATRON TICKETS \$750

- One (1) Exhibition & Garden Day Pass 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Wine & Beer and Light Fare
- Recognition as Patron in Event Invitation, Website, and Event Program
- A decadent epicurean basket of wine and gifts to-go

Visit www.lotuslandcelebrates.org to reserve your sponsorship or tickets.

If available, General Admission tickets release for sale on June 28. Space is limited and the event will sell out quickly.

For more information contact: Courtney Tentler, Director of Operations and Events at 805.324.8416



IMPACTFUL PHILANTHROPY **Executive Director Action Fund**

WE WERE THRILLED TO RECEIVE a \$20,000 gift to establish a new fund for use exclusively at the discretion of the Executive Director. This fund will support emergency needs that arise, or other opportunities or programs which require immediate attention. Named the 'Executive Director Action Fund,' it covers any contingency up to \$10,000, and any unused funds remain in the fund for use the next year.

Executive Director, Rebecca Anderson, recently advised Lotusland board members "With this gift, and future gifts that are directed to this fund, Lotusland will be able to quickly solve problems that often could not be anticipated and were not included in our budget." This outstanding gift of \$20,000 will help Lotusland purchase new directional signage needed throughout the Garden to support our visitors and Members in enjoying and exploring the Garden on self-guided tours instituted as part of our COVID safety response. "With this gift, we are able to quickly solve our most pressing challenges. Especially during these stressful times, the fund provides real solutions and peace of mind," says Rebecca.

Having seen success in this strategic philanthropy in other organizations, these wonderful donors make Lotusland the fourth organization where they have seeded a similar contingency fund for the leadership. We are grateful to be a part of their purposeful philanthropy and invite others to join with gifts to this new fund. For more information, or to contribute, please contact 805.969.3767, ext. 104.



RESTORATION OF THE PINK WALL Thank You Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree

ASIDE FROM ITS BREATHTAKING LIVING COLLECTIONS, there is hardly an element of Lotusland more full of lore and love than the iconic pink wall. If you live nearby, you may have noticed repairs taking place on this distinguishing feature of the estate. After years of increasing deterioration, a community hero stepped forward to rescue the issues of the wall surrounding Lotusland.

When she became aware of the need to restore areas of the pink wall, ever-gracious Lotusland supporter Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree jumped at the call, with a gift to support the restoration of this iconic feature. Not one to let a community need go untended, these repairs to the perimeter wall will help to ensure neighborhood goodwill, improve visitor impressions, and enhance the allure of the horticultural treasures that lie within.

Lady Ridley-Tree has been a philanthropic member of Lotusland for the last 26 years. Her ongoing support through her membership, sponsorship of our annual Lotusland Celebrates event and investments in capital improvements have helped Lotusland achieve its standing as one of the top botanical institutions in the world.

We thank Lady Ridley-Tree for her generous and loyal support of Lotusland and celebrate her spirited contribution. This gift will be enjoyed and recognized by Lotusland as well as our wider community for many years to come.

WISH LIST Help Advance Lotusland's Mission

Online Ticketing

This year, Lotusland will be integrating our Reservations, Visitor Services, Membership and Development databases to allow for online



ticketing. In the near future, you will be able to conveniently book your Garden reservation online. This technology requires

extensive staff time and expertise to build, and there are significant costs to equip, train and run the powerful new integrated system. Your support will help Lotusland become more efficient and add the convenience of online bookings. Program expense \$35,000 annually.

Specimen Plant Fund



This restricted account is used for crucial projects. It is funded completely by donations and affords Lotusland the needed leverage to replace important and historical plants

in an aging landscape. Many of the oldest cacti and euphorbias in front of the main house have been lost to old age and are in need of replacement along with many of the large, old Aloe barberae in the Aloe Garden.

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.

A BENEFIT EVENT FROM THE GARDEN, FOR THE GARDEN

Sanctuary



In partnership with GraySpace **Gallery and Ruth Ellen Hoag**

ON EARTH DAY Lotusland launched a new virtual benefit event entitled, Sanctuary: Lotusland Online Art Sale & **Gallery Exhibition**

We are so thankful to our curators, participating artists and volunteers for their energy and gifts to support the Garden!

Dear Lotusland,

I heard the breeze pass through your palms. The fronds rustled high above your salmon walls like flags atop a ship's mast declaring, "Here sails a sacred vessel."

You stood still, contained.

Regally dressed in evergreens, cacti, chartreuse buds.

A peplum of saffron yellow flowers.

I beheld your cool trickling waterways and prehistoric flora. Your blood-red stamen and velvety moss. Your dripping fruit.

You are a lush sanctuary.

A testament to the ferocious nature of nature's imagination. You remind us that what is planted whispers of possibility. And that we are all gardens of possibility. Moved to respond to your symphony of ideas in chlorophyll.

Olivia Joffrey, participating artist

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTICIPATING ARTISTS:

Robert Abbott Meredith Brooks Abbott Whitney Brooks Abbott Michael Adcock Jessica June Avrutin Bobbi Bennett Baret Boisson Cara Bonewitz Phoebe Brunner Erika Carter Connie Connally Rick Garcia Sophie Gibbings

Taiana Giefer

Inga Guzyte Michael Haber Lily Hahn Whitney Hansen Ruth Ellen Hoag Olivia Joffrey Paulo Lima Cathy Molholm R. Nelson Parrish Maria Rendon

Lindsey Ross

George Leo Sanders

Blakeney Sanford

Joan Rosenberg-Dent

Ryan Shand Manjari Sharma Leslie Lewis Sigler Kerrie Smith Skip Smith Ro Snell Luis Alberto Velazquez Lynda Weinman

WELCOME New Staff



JILL GRISHAM, SPHR, SHRM-SCP Human Resources/Payroll Administrator

Jill was born and raised as a "military brat" and lived in various European countries for seven years before returning to the US. She graduated with honors from UCLA and recently retired from a 30 year

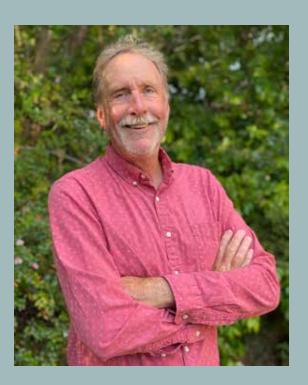
career with Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District as Assistant Manager of Human Resources and Risk. Jill enjoys volunteering at Santa Barbara County Animal Services and Old Spanish Days Fiesta. Jill's zest for life and love for her role at Lotusland are exemplified as she says, "My life and career goals are to use all my skills and learn to contribute and coach as I enjoy life."



ELIZABETH MACIAS Development Coordinator and Archive Assistant

Elizabeth Macias joins Lotusland as our Development Coordinator and Archive Assistant. She recently graduated from Westmont College with a degree in history and interned at Lotusland for over a year

in the archives before being promoted to her new role. Prior to Lotusland, she worked at the Ridley-Tree Museum of Art at Westmont College for more than three years and fell in love with the world of arts and cultural institutions. Elizabeth was born and raised in Fullerton, California, and lived for a number of years in San Jose, Costa Rica. Her passions include trying new coffee shops downtown, listening to podcasts, and watching historical documentaries. When not at her desk, you can usually find her admiring the Aloe Garden.



STAFF APPRECIATION **Bob Craig Retires**

BOB CRAIG RETIRED IN FEBRUARY after more than seven years of service as Director of Marketing & Communications. His work left an indelible mark on Lotusland, as well as photographic images that continue to tell the story of the Garden. Bob's contributions were more than artistic and professional. His good nature, sense of humor, and warm personality were a calling card for Lotusland, as he genuinely cared for and connected with each person he encountered. Lotusland's goal in Marketing focuses on community engagement. Bob's body of work includes publishing several books about the Garden, creating its first documentary short film, capturing its oral history and creating its 25 year retrospective exhibition. His fingerprints are on countless elements of Lotusland's digital and print media. He showed the majesty that exists within Lotusland's gardens and created connections with our community. Bob launched our first online volunteer directory of images and added the Board biographies on our website. Recently he created our Volunteer Appreciation Newsletter cover—a mosaic of the people who power the Garden. Bob's love of Lotusland and affiliation continue, as he and his wife Vickie are valued members of the Lotus Society, our legacy group supporting our endowment. We appreciate Bob's devotion and diligence in telling Lotusland's story so well.

— Rebecca Anderson, Executive Director



LESSONS FROM LOTUSLAND Webinars Online

FOR MORE THAN A YEAR we have presented a series of fascinating and informative webinars taught by Lotusland staff and other notable experts. This very popular online series is available for your viewing pleasure on our website at no cost. Visit www.lotusland.org/learn/lessonsfromlotusland.

Highlights of the series so far include:

Alluring Aloes presented by Paul Mills, Curator of the Living Collection and Tom Cole of Cold Spring Aloes.

Circle of Life: Sustainable Horticulture presented by Corey Welles, Plant Healthcare Coordinator.

Ganna Walska: Out of the Limelight presented by Lotusland Research Associate Rose Thomas.

The Dunlap Cactus Collection and How it Came to Lotusland presented by Paul Mills, Curator of the Living Collections.

Kokedama: Hanging Gardens presented Anna Bower, Assistant Curator, and Kerstin Horneman, Events Manager of Lotusland.

Tantalizing Topiaries presented by Tyler Diehl, Director of Grounds and Facilities and artist and designer Lori Ann David.

Upcoming Lessons from Lotusland include:

Tuesday, May 18 • 5:00 - 600 PM

The Essence of the Japanese Garden at Lotusland presented by Terri Clay, Pruning Specialist/Horticulturist.

Visit www.lotusland.org/events to register

Lessons from Lotusland will continue throughout 2021 to bring you programs offering insights, information and enlightenment about Lotusland and the natural world beyond. Stay informed about this and all Lotusland activities by subscribing to our e-bulletin at www.lotusland.org/about-us/newsletter/.

SAVE THE DATE **Exceptional Plants** October 2, 2021

IT'S BACK! Lotusland's signature plant auction, Exceptional Plants, will be held in the Garden this year. The event will be smaller to allow for social distancing but the plants will be, as always, amazing. The auction will feature two different Encephalartos woodii hybrids as well as other special plants. For sponsorship and plant donation opportunities please contact Paul Mills, pmills@lotusland.org.

The Event will be held on Saturday, October 2. Tickets will go on sale





Sunday, June 20 Dads & Grads Picnic

Arrival Times: 2:00, 2:15, and 2:30 PM

CELEBRATE DADS AND GRADS with a picnic on the Great Lawn. Bring your picnic blanket, food and drinks (alcohol is allowed) and only gear you can carry. The Great Lawn provides plenty of shady space to spread out, relax, and unwind in the beauty of the Garden. After your picnic, we encourage you to take time to roam the gardens. Face coverings are required when walking the gardens. Please call 805.969.9990 for reservations.

Tuesday, May 18 • 5:00 to 6:00 PM **Lessons from Lotusland - Virtual Lecture** The Essence of the Japanese Garden at Lotusland



TERRI CLAY, PRUNING SPECIALIST, HORTICULTURALIST (see page 7). Terri started tending to Lotusland's Japanese Garden and its specimen plants in 1986, with 20 years working

alongside Frank Fujii.

Free with prior registration. Register online www.lotusland.org/events.





Saturday, August 21 • 2:00 to 4:00 PM **Picnic in Paradise Summer Picnic**

Arrival Times: 2:00, 2:15, and 2:30 PM

Saturday, September 18 • 2:00 to 4:00 PM **Picnic in Paradise Fall Harvest Picnic**

Arrival Times: 2:00, 2:15, and 2:30 PM

BRING YOUR PICNIC BLANKET, FOOD AND DRINKS (alcohol is allowed) and only gear you can carry. The Great Lawn provides plenty of shady spaces to spread out, relax, and unwind in the beauty of the Garden. After your picnic, we encourage you to take time to roam the gardens. Face coverings are required when walking the gardens. \$40 Members, \$20 Children age 3-17, age two and under no charge. \$75 non-members. Please call 805.969.9990 for reservations.

LOTUSLAND GRATEFULLY **ACKNOWLEDGES DONORS**

December 2020 and January, February, March 2021

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NFW GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS

We welcome new Garden Lover Members who joined in December 2020 and January, February, March 2021

NFW GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS

CONSERVATOR

Marcie & Robert Musser

CULTIVATOR

Susan Budinger & Jeff Harrah Carey Lowell & Tom Freston Mr. Guillermo Nicolas & Mr. Jim Foster Wendy A. Stein & Bart Friedman

ADVOCATE

Elizabeth Case Lisa Foley

Alison & Brian Levant

Trish Rayner-Guiterrez & David Guiterrez

^{**} Deceased

LOTUSLAND GARDEN SHOP A Morning Cup of Lotusland

Help support the Garden by shopping at Lotusland's Garden Shop, in person or online at **lotuslandshop.org.** Members save 10% on all purchases.

Lotusland Blend Exotic Dark Roast Coffee

Inspired by Lotusland's exotic, one-of-a-kind plant collections. This complex blend is from five growing regions; Africa, East Asia, Oceania, Central and South America. Taste Asia and Oceania in its rich, creamy and savory chocolate, earthy body. Africa spices things up with a kick of acidity, notes of deep berry and red wine. Central and South America keep the blend bright and balanced with hints of chocolate, fruit and flowers. \$12.00/8 ozs.

Lotusland Matte Black Mug with Logo

\$12.00/8 ounces





GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS RENEWING OR INCREASING LEVEL OF SUPPORT

December 2020 and January, February, March 2021

GARDEN LOVER **MEMBERS**

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Jill Taylor & Ray Link*

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CONSERVATOR

Susie & Riley Bechtel Marcia & John Mike Cohen Michael MacElhenny & David Wine Christine Smith Johanna Woollcott & Eugene McCarthy

CULTIVATOR

Alisa & Robert Baur Daniel Bifano & Allan Brostrom Wendy & Christopher Blau Susan Boswell & Jacquelynn Prevost* Lynn & Chuck Brewer Virginia Castagnola-Hunter Susan & Peter Cheney* Kate & Art Coppola Julie & Roger Davis Scott Francis & Susan Gordon Barbara & Bill Gillette* Jacquelyn Klein-Brown & Dr. Michael Trambert Ellen Lawson Michael Loftis & Erik Nickel Joseph Marek & John Bernatz Mimi Michaelis Mette & David Naness Belita Ong & J. Gordon Auchincloss Mr. & Mrs. William Pulice Ann & Ken Stinson Pam & Russ Strobel Nancy & John Vasi Ellen & James Zissler

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* Denotes Increased Support



With special appreciation of Robert and Susan Lieff of Leiff Ranch Wines, who generously gifted wine for 2021 activities and events.



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Spring/Summer 2021

Tuesday, May 18 Lessons from Lotusland Virtual Lecture

The Essence of the Japanese Garden at Lotusland See page 16

Sunday, June 20 Dads & Grads Picnic See page 16 Thursday, June 17 and Friday, June 18 **Members Appreciation Picnics**See page 9

Saturday, August 21 Picnic in Paradise See page 16 **Saturday, September 18 Picnic in Paradise**See page 16

Saturday, October 2
Exceptional Plants: Lotusland
Auction and Sale
See page 15

Lotusland Spring and Summer Self-Guided Tour Schedule

We look forward to welcoming you to Lotusland! In order to maintain social distancing, we are continuing with self-guided tours, timed tickets, staggered arrivals, limited visitor capacity, and strictly enforced mask policies.

Self-guided tours are available Wednesdays through Saturdays at 9:15, 9:30 and 9:45 for morning visits and 1:15, 1:30 and 1:45 for afternoon visits. Garden visits last two hours. Parking reservations are required.

Please call 805.969.9990 to check availability and reserve your tour. All visits require a prior reservation and space is limited.

For Your Safety: Staggered Arrival Times for Self-Guided Tours

Including Members

Arrival 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.

Please call 805.969.9990 for reservations