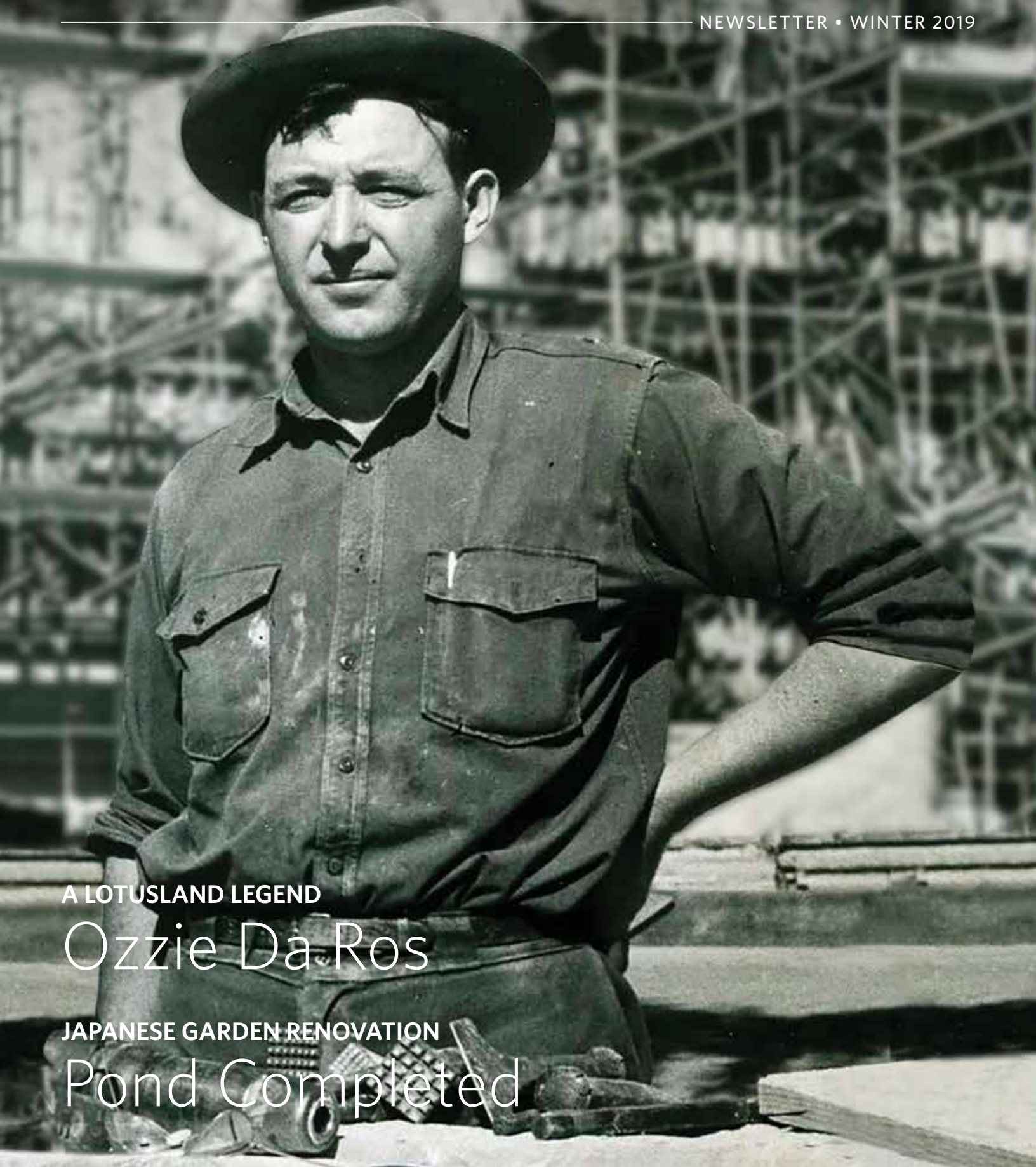


Ganna  
Walska



# LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2019



A LOTUSLAND LEGEND

## Ozzie Da Ros

JAPANESE GARDEN RENOVATION

## Pond Completed



695 Ashley Road  
Santa Barbara, California 93108  
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## LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Members and Friends,

**IN THIS FIRST ISSUE OF YOUR 2019** newsletter we share stories of the past and plans for the future.



We dedicate the lead article to Ozzie Da Ros, whose recent passing signaled the end of an era. Ozzie was the last of many talented craftsmen and expert plantsmen who worked directly with Ganna Walska over several decades to make her dream of a “most outstanding center of horticultural significance and educational use” become a reality, a top ten garden of the world. Fortunately, we were able to gather written or oral memoirs from most of Walska’s collaborators so their accounts may guide us as we tend the Garden now and in perpetuity.

Nowhere is this commitment better exemplified than in the renovation of the Japanese Garden. Over six years we conducted intensive research, peeling away the multiple historic layers of the garden to understand and preserve the significant aspects of each. We honor the garden and its makers even as we conscientiously add a new layer that addresses the modern obligations of an historic estate turned public garden. With the garden’s completion this year, all guests will have safe, comfortable access to the garden and new, unprecedented programs designed to serve the needs and interests of our community.

This commitment is also revealed in the important efforts of our horticulture and curatorial staff as they share their news on pages six and seven. They preserve critical plant specimens in our collection while doing vital conservation of endangered plant species in the wild. They preserve Lotusland’s historic aesthetic while utilizing — and sharing — progressive horticultural techniques. We celebrate the commitments of a long-time friend of Lotusland on page eleven, and of a long-time staff member on page thirteen, both of whom have been keepers of Lotusland’s chronicles and beacons for Lotusland’s continuous path forward.

Most recently, Lotusland’s Board of Trustees embraced this commitment by completing a year-long planning process with a unanimous vote to adopt a Three-Year Strategic Plan, setting Lotusland on a course toward financial and operational sustainability. The promise this plan makes for Lotusland as a guaranteed, relevant community resource is secured by the many people of Lotusland’s past and present, including you, our Members and Friends, who share a deep passion for the Garden, for our purposeful work, and for Ganna Walska’s dream.

We are excited about the potential of a new year, a new era, and look forward to seeing you in the Garden.

Gwen L. Stauffer  
Chief Executive Officer

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#### **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.

WINTER 2019

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## LOTUSLAND WELCOMES

# New Staff Members



### LAURIE ZALK

Fourth Grade Outreach Coordinator

Laurie was born, raised, educated and lived her whole life in California. She has also travelled the world and visited many exotic lands. Thirty-five years ago she co-founded Our Daily Bread, managing a thriving bakery & café while raising three children. Today, she focuses on helping children learn about the wonders of Lotusland and their special relationship to plants.



### SARAH HASELSCHWARDT

Strategic Partnerships Manager

Sarah hails from a tiny town in northern Michigan called Charlevoix. Sarah was previously Director of Communications at Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara. She enjoys rock collecting, singing, reading, and laughing, and will probably try to convince you to visit Michigan. Her favorite things include her dog Jake, the Italian language, cooking for others, and playing practical jokes on her husband.



### KERSTIN HORNEMAN

Development & Event Assistant

Prior to joining Lotusland, Kerstin owned and operated Blue Magnolia, a floral and event design business. She is passionate about flora and fauna and what better place to be inspired than Lotusland. She married her SBCC college sweetheart and they have 2 awesome kids. Most weekends you will find them at the beach or catching a show at the Bowl.



### RUTH MESNIK

Human Resources/Office Manager

Ruth was born and raised in Mexico City. She attended college in El Paso, Texas, and earned her degree in business administration. She worked for RCA and later with Penske in Arizona. After moving to Santa Barbara with her husband, she received her MS in Organizational Management. Her favorite thing about working at Lotusland is helping everyone navigate the workplace in a balanced and healthy fashion.

# Ozzie Da Ros, a Lotusland Legend

By Gwen Stauffer

**OSWALD (OZZIE) DA ROS**, one of Ganna Walska's most trusted associates, passed away on November 13, 2018, ending the era of the "greats" who were Walska's direct collaborators in creating Lotusland. Ozzie's handiwork is apparent throughout Lotusland and many of the garden's most spectacular stone features were constructed by him.

Ozzie began his stonemason career working for his father, an Italian immigrant who started what is now Da Ros Masonry and Santa Barbara Stone. Lockwood De Forest first introduced Ozzie's father's company to "the Madame." Their first project at Lotusland was in late 1941, 77 years ago, building a large arched stone fireplace in Madame's music studio that was formerly a stable designed by George Washington Smith for the Gavit family, who previously owned the estate. Another of Ozzie's early

projects was moving large boulders from San Marcos Pass that Ganna Walska had personally selected for her garden. Ozzie loved that she found such great joy in going into the field in search of materials to build her garden. Ozzie and his father's company worked with Ralph Stevens to build Madame's new swimming pool in the area of the estate that would become the Fern Garden and they also removed the cast ornamentation that surrounded the front door of the main house.

When Ozzie returned home after serving in Persia for the U.S. Army in World War II, he rejoined his father's company, eventually taking over the business after his father passed away and continued to work with Madame at Lotusland. The ashlar wall by the new swimming pool was designed by Ralph Stevens and built by Ozzie and his crew from sandstone quarried near Carpinteria. They also built



the rooster grotto located in the Lower Bromeliad Garden. They built the Theatre Garden's long, curved, seating walls from weathered fieldstone that Ganna Walska had personally selected while on a field trip with him to the Spaulding Ranch on San Marcos Pass. Ozzie and his crew located exotic rocks and minerals to line the paths including the striking blue-green slag glass, which was a byproduct of glass bottle production from the Arrowhead Water bottling company. They also worked on the Blue Garden and the installation of the Horticultural Clock.

Ozzie once said, "the most challenging thing on the estate was trying to understand what the Madame really wanted in these different projects." The abalone pool fell neatly into this category. Madame wanted to create something unique with the existing pool in the Aloe Garden, and she demonstrated the concept to Ozzie using a porcelain saucer dish full of water. Ozzie brought in local



TOP RIGHT: Ozzie Da Ros  
BOTTOM LEFT: Ashlar wall by the pool.

artist, Joe Knowles, Sr., to help. They worked with Madame to design and set the abalone shells together in groups resembling flowers alternating in bud and bloom, and used large clam shells to create water fountains. Ozzie tells the story that everything went smoothly with the exception of a moment of indecision that led to the pool being painted Kelly green before it was finally repainted white.

Ganna Walska came to Ozzie one day, sharing images she had torn from a magazine and declaring she wanted some mosaics below the geranium terrace. Ozzie recommended a gardener on her staff who was also an artist, Jim Minah, to create the design. Her instructions were that the design must have “lots of movement, but enclosed.” Unable to find smooth pebbles in enough colors, Ozzie collected rough stone chosen precisely for their colors, then tumbled them in a cement mixer before setting them in place.

Ozzie’s greatest project at Lotusland was the collaboration with Frank Fujii to create the Japanese Garden. In the mid-1960s Madame consulted with three Japanese landscape architects, each delivering a set of drawings and plans to convert the original reservoir at the lowest part of the estate into a Japanese garden. She was not satisfied with any of the design concepts and told Ozzie that she could not understand them, saying, “I ask for a garden and they give me paper. How are we going to build the Japanese garden that I want?” Ozzie replied that she already had an expert on her staff — Frank Fujii, whose father was a Japanese garden designer. “My Frank can do this?” she asked, and so it began. Between Frank, Ozzie and Madame, the Japanese Garden evolved from what was Ralph Kinton Stevens’ reservoir to water his nursery in the late 1880s, turned pleasure pond with strolling paths for the Gavits in the 1920s, to a post-World War II interpretation of a Japanese stroll garden. They procured Japanese stone lanterns from a number

of sources including the Knight, Raimen, Armour, Madern and El Mirador estates in Santa Barbara.

Many features of the Japanese Garden were done the way that Madame wanted, right or wrong according to Frank’s expertise and by Ozzie’s estimation. Ozzie recounted, “She insisted, and you did not argue with the Madame - you gave her her way. It was only two times that I really put my foot down and said I wasn’t going to do something. One of these; there is a tremendous platform stone that the Torii gate sits on and it projects out into the driveway, and she wanted me to cut that stone on the alignment of the curb. I told her, ‘I just won’t do it, this is the way it must be set.’ She fumed, and was angry, supposedly angry for a few days, and after two weeks she came back and said, ‘I’m glad you didn’t cut that stone.’ And so she was a real fine person when you stood your ground on a point that you felt that was really important. She would say that I was not her “yes” man. I was always sort of proud of that. I could get along with her but still disagree or suggest that she wasn’t doing it right.”

When asked about the challenges of working with a client as determined and headstrong as Ganna Walska, Ozzie described an incident that occurred shortly after a disagreement they had about a project. “She went in the house and came out with two water glasses full of red zinfandel wine at 2 o’clock in the afternoon. And as she hands me the glass she said, ‘How do you put up with an old woman like me?’ I looked at her and said in Italian, ‘*Sempre avanti*, Madame’ which translates as ‘always forward.’”

Ozzie remains a deeply valued connection to Ganna Walska and Lotusland’s colorful history. The Lotusland and Da Ros relationship continues, carried forward into the third generation with Ozzie’s son, Peter Da Ros, who continues to help the Garden. Ozzie was generous in deed and spirit, and a friend to many. We will always remember his sharp wit, quick humor, love of life and the twinkle in his eye.



LEFT: Large arched stone fireplace in Madame’s music studio. RIGHT: Torii gate on the platform stone. BOTTOM: Pebble mosaic.

# Horticultural Happenings

## ICONIC PLANTS AND LANDSCAPES



*Aloe ramosissima*

**FROM THE BEACH LINED** with giant clamshells to the “Seussian” weeping *Euphorbia ingens* in front of the Main House, there are many unique and iconic landscapes at Lotusland. Another of these, adjoining the shell pond is the Aloe

Garden, which recently received a much needed face lift. The last of the original plants, a venerable *Aloe ramosissima* that was already an old Lotusland plant in the 1970’s according to Charlie Glass’ plant records, had to be removed due to root rot. Five plants of *Aloe ramosissima* and two of *Aloe dichotoma* were purchased from a local plant collector. After a thorough soil renovation was completed, the plants were carefully placed and planted to be enjoyed for another 50+ years.

The purchase of these plants was made possible by Lotusland’s **Specimen Plant Fund**. This restricted and essential account is funded completely by donations specified for crucial projects such as this. The fund affords us some leverage to replace important and historical plants in an aging landscape.



*Echinopsis terscheckii*

Although now diminished, we plan to use the **Specimen Plant Fund** for another upcoming project. Upon returning to Lotusland when we reopen, guests will notice a very special plant missing. On the main drive at the intersection of the path

that leads to the Upper Bromeliad Garden stood an enormous specimen of the cactus *Echinopsis terscheckii* that was around 70 years old. As it got older, and as happens with many plants, it was infected with root rot which had spread to the trunk, compromising the plant and making it a hazard. Cuttings were saved for the future, but in the spring we will be using the **Specimen Plant Fund** once again to replace an iconic plant in an iconic landscape. — *Paul Mills*



Crystal Bridges

## SHARING LOTUSLAND’S EXPERTISE

**LAST OCTOBER** I spoke at the American Public Gardens Association (APGA) Symposium on *Organics in the Modern Public Garden* and Lotusland’s beneficial insect strategies. The event was hosted by the Tulsa Botanic Garden and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. Lotusland is recognized as a leader in sustainable and organic gardening and as nearly all public gardens in North America are making this transition, we were happy to be able to share our success and experience with industry peers.

Following the APGA event, I was invited to Crystal Bridges to give an in-depth presentation and staff training on Lotusland’s core techniques and philosophies of our sustainable horticulture program. Crystal Bridges was founded by Alice Walton, the daughter of the Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton. Her personal dream was to build an architecturally beautiful museum of American art nestled among the trees of Bentonville, Arkansas. The museum believes “the experience of and appreciation for nature is central to the mission of Crystal Bridges.” Their desire to understand and adopt our core horticulture philosophies is a testament to Lotusland as an asset to our garden community. Lotusland’s environmentally friendly concepts can be summarized in four main categories:

1. Develop a robust beneficial insect program.
2. Create living soil that protects and feeds the plants.
3. Implement composting and mulching programs as a long-term strategy to build soil, suppress weeds and retain proper soil moisture.
4. Identify and eliminate activities that destroy soil, limit beneficial insects and impede other sustainable components and work to avoid these activities.

Crystal Bridges is breathtakingly beautiful and I was awestruck by the sheer scale of the museum. I was honored to have the opportunity to help them realize their dream of partnering more closely with the environment. Our goal is to translate complex ecological ideas into easy to understand and lasting protocols that are safe for employees to implement and environmentally compatible. — *Corey Welles*

COLLECTIONS NEWS

# A Safari of Plants: The 11th Conference on Cycad Biology

**NOT YOUR TYPICAL PLANT EXCURSION,** we were packed like sheep in the back of a Toyota 4x4 headed for what appeared to be an impossible track up the boulder strewn hill. Our driver and guide Neil, whose farm we were on, assured us that he takes this route all the time. Our destination was a saddle between two mountains in the distance and waiting for us there were three different cycads — *Encephalartos princeps*, *E. friderici-guilhelmi* and *E. caffer*. This was the perfect culmination of the post-conference tour of the 11th Conference on Cycad Biology in South Africa. Our group experienced 14 different species of cycads in the wild and the myriad plants that grow in association with them that we know so well from the gardens at Lotusland.

The conference itself was held outside of Nelspruit, South Africa, in White River, and was hosted by the Cycad Society of South Africa. Because of our globally important cycad collection, Lotusland curatorial staff has attended this conference almost since its inception, which is held every three years in distinct

corners of the world. The conference offered much valuable information with topics covering everything from conservation, ethnobotany and horticulture, to genetics and systematics, pollination biology and evolution. It was an amazing opportunity to interact with and reinforce our relationships with the world leaders in the study of cycads.

In conjunction with the conference is the meeting of the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Cycad Specialist Group (CSG), of which Lotusland is a member. Being the most threatened plant group on the planet, the CSG works tirelessly to conserve individual species of cycads and their habitats while working to educate and raise awareness around this unique plant group. We are in the preliminary stages of working with the CSG and colleagues in South Africa to develop a species survival action plan for *Encephalartos heenanii* — one of the most threatened species of cycad. In 2012 Lotusland produced seed of *E. heenanii* for the first time ever in the United States and most likely the first time ever in a public botanic garden anywhere



LEFT: Paul Mills with an immense plant of *Encephalartos princeps*. TOP RIGHT: *Encephalartos heenanii* BOTTOM RIGHT: *Encephalartos horridus* with *Aloe ferox* in the foreground

in the world. These plants will be used as part of an “assurance colony” for breeding and reintroduction to the wild over the long term.

Lotusland is part of a strong network of cycad specialists and is starting to coordinate with researchers, allowing samples to be taken from our collection for DNA studies of the evolutionary history of this group of plants. Often promoted as plants from the time of dinosaurs, modern day cycads are believed to be only about 12 million years old — it is their distant ancestors that were around during the dinosaur's heyday. Hopefully by aiding in this research Lotusland's can help to further unravel the mysteries of these enigmatic plants. — Paul Mills

# Completion of the Pond!



**THE PREREQUISITE FOR CAREFUL SYNCHRONIZATION** of many complicated operations is what makes the renovation of the Japanese Garden so complex. Proper sequencing of each and every step is critical as we systematically rebuild the garden.

For example, setting heavy boulders and boxed trees into place requires a crane that must be positioned in the pond to safely reach the target location for each boulder and tree, some of which can weigh more than several tons. However, the pond liner, made of a 30-millimeter PVC liner placed on geotextile fabric and sealed with a layer of concrete, can be damaged if heavy equipment is driven on it. The distance the crane can reach before it will tip over is limited by the weight of the object being lifted, so all the crane work for the first of four project phases must be completed before the first phase pond liner is installed, and all the first phase trees and boulders must be on site and ready to go when the crane is called in. The timing of these and numerous other construction steps for each phase demands meticulous planning and intense coordination by the entire renovation team made up of diverse trades and expertise.

Now 11 months into the renovation, (with a delay of two months due to the disasters), we have completed reconstruction of the pond. The liner is fully installed and the final crane has returned the massive stone bridge – 17,000 pounds – to its original position. The main waterfall, originally built by Ozzie

Da Ros, now flows as he first intended. By the end of January all the waterworks in the Japanese Garden will be fully functioning and the Lotusland horticultural team will be trained to operate the state-of-the-art biofiltration system that controls the biological condition of the water. We look forward to returning the koi and their recent offspring to their aquatic home where we can view them from the recently completed Lotus Viewing Deck.

In addition to the precise timing of every move of the reconstruction, the protection of historic aspects of the garden has required cautious maneuvering

of earth moving equipment to grade the handicap accessible paths without damaging trees and boulders we left in place to be preserved. While the grading of the paths was one of the very first procedures in the renovation, critical to establishing all the grades throughout the garden, the finishing of the paths with paving materials will be one of the very last steps. With path grades set, the landscape team finished the installation of trees in the first and second phases of the garden, ameliorated the existing soils with compost as prescribed by the Lotusland team, and installed irrigation. Planting of the shrub layer has begun so that the south side of the garden looks ready for guests. Phase three is well under way, and phase four has just begun.

Before the disasters, our completion date was March 2019. Disaster evacuations and delays have moved the completion date to May 2019, depending on this winter's weather. That said, progress is brisk and the daily changes are very noticeable. We have removed the green screen from the construction fence so you may watch the team's efforts and the garden's evolution from the safety of the main drive. If you are interested in joining us for a tour inside the garden to witness the team's efforts and get an intimate experience of the garden's evolution as you consider a gift to help us complete our renovation project campaign, please contact Rebecca Anderson at 805.969.3767, ext. 104. — *Gwen Stauffer*

ABOVE: Japanese Garden pond reconstruction completed.



## JAPANESE GARDEN

### Mitsugimono Donor Tribute



Artist Rendering of the Mitsugimono Donor Recognition Feature

**“Japanese gardens are meant to be places in which we can walk and breathe deeply. Our bodies feel calm and our minds are stimulated.” — Dr. Kendall Brown**

Dr. Brown is an instructor in Lotusland's Docent Training Program and has authored books on Japanese gardens in North America. He is professor of Asian Art History in the School of Art at California State University, Long Beach and is a Guest Curator of Collections, Exhibitions and Programs at Pacific Asia Museum. He received his BA and MA degrees in history and art history from the University of California, Berkeley, and a PhD in art history from Yale University.

### CULTIVATING A NATURAL SANCTUARY FOR EDUCATION AND ENJOYMENT

For more than 1,500 years, Japanese gardens were developed throughout Japan's islands and then across six continents. Japanese gardens have been part of North American culture for almost 150 years. Lotusland's Japanese-style garden was created in the 1960s by Madame Walska, Frank Fujii, and Ozzie Da Ros. When the renovation is realized, all Lotusland visitors will experience the renewing benefits of a landscape designed for contemplation, harmony and wellness.

*The Mitsugimono Donor Tribute is generously supported by Montecito Bank & Trust.*

## RESTORING BODY & SPIRIT

### Revitalizing Lotusland's Japanese Garden

**JOIN US!** Advance the renovation to make Lotusland more vibrant. Contribute to reserve a naming opportunity, Adopt-a-Lantern, or make a gift. Make a memorial or tribute gift to recognize someone special. Contribute \$10,000 or more to have your name added to Mitsugimono and be a part of the Japanese Garden forever. For more information or to make a gift please call 805.969.3767.

### RESERVED NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Accessible Pathways	The Hind Foundation
Arch Bridge	Belle Hahn
Cryptomeria Gathering	John Mike and Marcia Cohen
Karesansui Gathering	Cyndee Howard and Lesley Cunningham
Lantern Entrance	Roger and Julie Davis
Lantern Exhibition	Montecito Bank & Trust
Mitsugimono	Montecito Bank & Trust
Pavilion Bridge	Alex and Eileen Rasmussen
Reflecting Pond Walk	Carole MacElhenny, David Wine and Michael MacElhenny
Spring Blossom Walk	In memory of Michael Towbes
Torii Gathering	Patricia Broome

### JAPANESE GARDEN LANTERN SUPPORTERS

Anonymous  
 Anonymous in memory of Frank Fujii  
 Nancy Casey in memory of Michael Casey  
 Dr. Jay Fortman in memory of Dr. Jennifer Fortman  
 Marilyn Fordney and Alex Havasi in memory of Toshio James Takahshi  
 Kathryn Dole in honor of her parents  
 Kathryn L.B. Dole and Bruce C. McGuire  
 Linda and Fred Gluck  
 John Mithun and Mercedes Millington  
 Suzanne and Gilbert Mathews in honor of Gwen Stauffer  
 Adele and Loi Nguyen  
 Mitchell E. Opalski  
 Mary Beth and Peter Oppenheimer in memory of Jesse Nimocks  
 Mary Beth and Peter Oppenheimer in memory of Patricia Nimocks  
 Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree in honor of Hiroko Benko  
 Regina and Rick Roney  
 Scott Rowland in memory of Karen Rowland  
 Sandra Russell and Jim Foster  
 Nita and Henk van der Werff in honor of their grandchildren

### AVAILABLE NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Pledges may be paid over 3-5 years

Lotus Viewing Deck	\$1,000,000	Miwatasu Gate	\$400,000
Reflecting Pond	\$1,000,000	Stone Bridge	\$250,000
Pavilion	\$1,000,000	Secret Garden	\$100,000
Miwatasu Overlook	\$750,000	Bamboo Pond	\$100,000
Torii Entrance	\$650,000	Bamboo Forest	\$100,000
Waterfall	\$600,000	Pine Island	\$100,000
Shinto Shrine	\$500,000	Japanese Maple Walk	\$100,000
Karesansui Garden	\$450,000	Adopt-a-Lantern	\$10,000

*just six remain!*

MICHAEL TOWBES

## An Inspiring Gift



Michael Towbes was a pivotal volunteer and Lotusland Trustee. His leadership and legacy loom large in the formation and operations of the Garden. Mike Towbes joined *The Lotus Society* in 2002 at its inception with a charitable bequest. In 2018, the realization of his ultimate

gift to the garden was gifted to Lotusland's endowment to help preserve the gardens for generations to come. We honor and remember Michael for his caring and generous support, and his incredible commitment to preserve and enhance Lotusland.

**"Lotusland exists as an oasis of tranquility in an otherwise chaotic world."**

— Michael Towbes

### PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT KEEPS LOTUSLAND THRIVING

Ganna Walska Lotusland is one of the region's most important cultural and environmental organizations. Realizing our mission would not be possible without our many donors and friends whose support allows Lotusland to educate and inspire. Because of the highly restrictive parameters of Santa Barbara County's Conditional Use Permit under which we operate — specifically regarding visitation — our capacity to generate earned income is severely stifled. Consequently, we are very dependent upon the generosity of Members and donors to raise nearly two-thirds of the annual operating budget every year. Your tax-deductible gift makes a difference and allows for continued conservation and preservation of Lotusland and its world-renowned gardens.

### WAYS TO GIVE

- **Make a one-time or monthly gift on your Credit Card** – [lotusland.org/giftsforthegarden](https://lotusland.org/giftsforthegarden)
- **Give by Check** – please mail gifts to: 695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108
- **Text to Give** – Text the word: LOTUS to 805. 870.8765
- **Event, Exhibit and Corporate Sponsorships**
- **Bequests**



### GIVING BACK

## Supporting the Community

**TO SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS** most impacted by last year's disasters, Lotusland hosted several special events and tours for the Montecito community.

**"I honestly can't remember a more pleasant or relaxed time than when Lotusland opened its doors to Casa Dorinda. What a beautiful setting!"**

— Jean Keely

In May we invited Cold Spring Elementary School students and families to enjoy family tours to renew themselves and enjoy the benefits of being together in nature. In July, Lotusland and local artist Lily Pon worked together to create a tribute installation of 10,000 hand-formed ceramic flowers made from handcrafted Montecito mud that were placed by guests into an interactive exhibit by guests during the *Lotusland Celebrates* gala on July 27. In September we invited 900 impacted households to visit Lotusland as our guests and in November we hosted residents of Casa Dorinda Retirement Community to enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the garden.

**"What a wonderful afternoon. It was a breath of fresh air, literally!"** — Ruth Deeley

## DONOR PROFILE

# Ron Caird

**Ron Caird began work at Lotusland in 1969. This year marks his 50th year of caring for the Lotusland gardens.**



Pat and Ron Caird

**RON CAIRD** has been a horticulturist and nurseryman for more than fifty years. His first job out of college was for Mistletoe Sales, where he travelled throughout California collecting seeds. Ron first visited Lotusland when he was 23, as a new employee of Griffin Tree and Landscape, his father-in-law's business which he later owned and operated. He met Madame Walska when she was purchasing and moving massive trees from other gardens. Despite the expense and difficulty, Ron and the Griffin team engineered the relocation of these large tree specimens for Madame's Lotusland masterpiece.

Griffin Tree began their work at Lotusland in 1948. In 1969, Ron was involved in many Lotusland projects: tree pruning, well repair, tending the orchard and installing the sprinklers on the Grand Lawn. "She had a feeling about plants," says Ron when recounting his work with Madame Walska. She would buy plants from nearby properties and it was up to Ron and his crew mates to go get them. Some tree moves took months, and all were organized, supervised and the plants placed by Madame herself. Ron worked at Lotusland into the early 80s and recalls the myriad of experts who supported Madame as she was building the garden, including Fritz Kubish (Bromeliad expert), Otto Martens (Palm expert from Deigard Nursery), Bay Thornberg and Art McFee (master tree mover, Griffin Tree and Landscape). Ron worked with all of the Lotusland giants: Frank Fujii, Charlie Glass and of course, Ozzie Da Ros, Lotusland's

beloved stonemason, who was a lifelong friend of the Cairds. Fond memories and appreciation of these professionals and their accomplishments are fortified with his accolades for the garden as it exists today.

"A garden is in constant transition," says Ron. He would know — in 1972 Ron began Por La Mar Nursery, the company he owns and runs today. Por La Mar Nursery has grown under the care and passion of Ron and his wife Patricia. Por La Mar or "By the Sea" began in Santa Barbara with six acres. Today, with 144 acres, Por La Mar is a top breeder, grower and shipper of gardenias, hydrangeas, calla lilies, cyclamen, mini roses and many more seasonal bulbs and potted plants that fill homes, restaurants, hotels and gardens nationwide. With his business success, Ron has devoted his time and resources to support the organizations that matter to him — he counts Lotusland among his top three causes and supports the garden accordingly.

In addition to giving generous financial support, Ron is an active volunteer, giving back to the community that has been good to him. He is a Director on the Board of the Goleta Chamber of Commerce and is on the Agriculture Advisory Board of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He also lends his expertise to the Agriculture Advisory Committee for the County of Santa Barbara and serves Lotusland as a member of our Horticulture Committee.

**"Lotusland is a world class garden."**

—Ron Caird

Mike Furner, Lotusland's most tenured gardener on staff, knew Ron at Por La Mar. Ron acknowledges Furner for getting him involved in Lotusland in recent years after a several decades hiatus. Ron's reasons for supporting Lotusland are straightforward. He wants to make sure Lotusland remains vital and open for public enjoyment. Ron says from experience, "People are really what make a business work" and follows with a hearty, "You guys do a great job!" He gives high compliments to Lotusland's current administration and credits retired gardens and grounds director, Mike Iven, and his generation of gardeners, for substantially improving the quality and care of all the Lotusland gardens after Madame's lifetime. He commends today's staff and crew for their excellent work and results.

— Rebecca Anderson

## SAVE THE DATES

# News for Members

LOTUSLAND IS GRATEFUL TO OUR MEMBERS for their continued support and loyalty. We look forward to a year full of programs and opportunities that are sure to inspire, educate and entertain. Mark your calendar now!

## Upcoming Events

### February 16

Enjoy a docent-led tour or choose to self-guide and consider joining in the added fun of a special event. **We open for the season on February 16.**

### March 1

**Lotusland in Origami: Folded Paper Sculptures of Flora, Fauna and Ganna**, an exhibition highlighting the historic art of origami will be on display in our Pavilion gallery until May 18. See page 15 for details.



### Thursday, May 16 and Friday, May 17

**Members' Appreciation Barbeques** will be held on two early evenings, May 16 and 17. These family friendly events feature entertainment, activities, scrumptious dinner and a cash bar. Details available in our Spring Newsletter.

### Summer 2019

The Japanese Garden re-opens early this summer. Join us to celebrate and explore this renovated and iconic garden favorite.



### June 22 and September 14

**Summer Bounty** on June 22 and **Fall Harvest** on September 14 are exclusive opportunities for *Garden Lover* level Members to attend Lotusland's ultimate foodie experience. These intimate 30 person dining feasts are paired with amazing wines — this unique garden culinary experience is beyond compare.

## THANK YOU TO OUR GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS

### CHAMPION

Rachel & Meir Bartur  
Suzanne & Gilbert Mathews

### VISIONARY

Amanda Bacon & Gregory Rogove  
Ted Friedel & Coleen Richardson Friedel

### STEWARD

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## Member Education



A variety of education programs are free based on your membership level.

At the *Friend level* (\$295), Members may attend Monday morning Lotusland docent training seminars. These offerings are announced via e-invitations.

For *Garden Lover* Members (\$600 or higher), our **Focus Tours** educational series offer free, hands-on garden presentations that are followed by a cocktail reception with CEO Gwen Stauffer and Trustees. Postcard invitations are mailed and *Focus Tours* are scheduled this year in February, April, September and October. We will kick-off the series with **Alluring Aloes on February 19**, and **Roaming Madame's Roses with Dan Bifano, our Board President and Master Rosarian, on April 23.**

## A LIFETIME IN THE GARDEN

# Celebrating Mike Furner's 40 Year Anniversary at Lotusland



**WHEN MIKE FIRST WORKED AT LOTUSLAND**, it was as an employee of Griffin Tree & Landscape. Among his first projects was moving dozens of cycads to the new Cycad Garden that Charlie Glass was creating with Ganna Walska. Moving the three *Encephalartos woodii* was especially challenging and a huge responsibility. Mike said, "Thank God she liked where we put them, because she had a tendency to move things a quarter of an inch here and there." Two years later, Madame Walska hired Mike in 1979 after seeing his hard work, dedication and love for Lotusland. "When I started working here she was in her nineties, but you could see the sparkle in her blue eyes. She was a real generous person and I was really glad to get to work with her for a while."

Most of Mike's career has been in the landscaping business. He grew up on Hope Avenue in Santa Barbara doing yard work, and worked at the Wilcox Nursery where he honed his skills in planting techniques. Afterward, he worked for Griffin, furthering his horticulture knowledge and learning a great deal about landscape construction.

In his forty years at Lotusland Mike has worked in all areas of the garden. He started with the cactus under Charlie Glass, moved on to the Cycad Garden, then to the Aloe Garden. When the epiphyllums were moved to the Tropical

Garden, Mike engineered a system to suspend them from the trees, creating a design where they seem to float in a dream-like setting. When restoration began on the Main House and outbuildings after Madame's death, Mike assisted Peter Stollenwerk with these construction projects and he gradually

phased out of gardening. He is proud of his many construction accomplishments that can be seen today: the Shinto Shrine, the lemon arbor and bird cage in the Insectary, to name a few. When the opportunity arose to return to the garden, Mike's passion for epiphytic bromeliads was recognized and there he remains to this day.

## The result is one of the most significant public displays of bromeliads in the country.

Botanist and bromeliad expert Ginny Guess describes Mike's work in the Bromeliad Gardens this way, "He has transformed these areas into a major showpiece at Lotusland. Not only has he continued the traditions established by the bromeliad specialists who preceded him, he has added his own, beautiful, aesthetic touch while introducing many new species. The result is one of the most significant public displays of bromeliads in the country."

Mike Iven, retired Director of Grounds and Facilities said, "I learned something new every time we worked together. His sense of design, his attention to detail, his stories, high standards, his memory of who, what, when, where and why, helped me to do my job. His appreciation of Ganna Walska's legacy helped everyone. He once said to me, 'Madame wouldn't

like that,' referring to some proposed change in the garden. He was right and, 'Would Madame like that?' became a mantra for me for 30 years."

Terri Clay, Specialty Pruner, tells of meeting Mike when they both worked at Lotusland in 1986. "We found the rooster grotto buried under a whole lot of sword fern, and with his creative input, Mike greatly improved the design by adding a subtle trickling waterfall. Lotusland is lucky to have someone who has put his heart and soul into everything he does."

Tyler Diehl, Director of Gardens and Facilities, describes Mike as an extremely valuable asset to the horticultural staff. "He is patient, calm and hard-working and always has a smile."

Gwen Stauffer, Chief Executive Officer, depends on Mike for guidance when making garden restoration and renovation decisions. "Mike has seen every change that has occurred in this garden since Madame walked these grounds. He is our historic encyclopedia,

and when we have a question about the past, we often say to each other, 'Go ask Mike.' On top of that, Mike is an excellent gardener who cares deeply about plants and his vocation. The Bromeliad Gardens are spectacular because of his devotion and expertise."

The entire crew and the many volunteers who work with him have the utmost respect and admiration for Mike. They describe him as "amazingly helpful," "the ground staff historian," "our resident weather forecaster," "a self-trained botanist," "a talented woodworker," "optimistic," "compassionate," "has an amazing work ethic" and the "the go-to person for just about anything."

Mike likes to tell people, "I've been sentenced to life at Lotusland — but it's a good sentence." — *Bob Craig*

## WISH LIST

# Help Make Lotusland's Wishes Come True



### **Rugged cart for garden use: John Deere Gator TX**

This is a rugged utility vehicle well suited for heavier loads and is able to perform more tasks than our existing

equipment. The Gator TX will provide the garden staff with a more versatile, efficient and safe vehicle. \$8,900.

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### **Spray Rig for Compost Tea: Rears Model PLR 100**

Compost tea spray rigs are a vital component of our plant health program. Our existing equipment is aging and the

rigors of heavy use make them in need of constant and costly repairs. This new rig will increase efficiency and be a reliable piece of equipment for the garden staff. It will help us spray compost tea for years to come. \$6,600.

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### **Six Hytera PD502 Two-Way Radios**

These radios are integral to our guests' safety while on tours. Effective communication with the office and kiosk is an important part of our safety program. \$450 each.

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**TO DONATE**, please call 805.969.3767, ext. 104. Thank you for supporting our Wish List. These tools make a big difference in our day-to-day operations.

## IN MEMORIAM, LOTUSLAND DOCENT Kate Doordan Klavan



Kate Doordan Klavan passed away at home in Santa Barbara on October 13, 2018, of ALS. After earning a BA from Barat College in Lake Forest, Illinois, Kate moved to New York and started a broadcast radio career eventually becoming a top broadcast journalist at WABC News. She

anchored newscasts nationally and covered special events like the Reagan-Gorbachev summits.

Kate moved west, first residing in Park City, Utah, before relocating to Santa Barbara to care for her younger brother Jim, stricken with MS, and in 2010 she was awarded Advocate of the Year by Cottage Rehabilitation Hospital. Kate became a Lotusland docent in 2013, volunteering her time so that others could experience the garden that she loved dearly.

Petite in stature, Kate was large of heart, filled with insatiable curiosity and deep love of family, books and art. She did not tolerate hypocrisy, sugar and alcohol, and leaves behind many friends.

**Monday, February 4 • 4:00 to 6:00 PM**

## Lotusland Annual Meeting and Reception

Please join us for **Lotusland's Annual Meeting** and State of the Garden address delivered by Gwen Stauffer, Lotusland's CEO. The meeting recaps the highlights of 2018.

RSVP to Kerstin at [events@lotusland.org](mailto:events@lotusland.org) or 805.969.3767, ext. 130.



Dorothy Gardner and Dan Bifano



Laura-Lee Woods and Gwen Stauffer



Glen Griffith and Carrie Cooper



Richard and Luci Janssen

## UPCOMING EXHIBITION

**Friday, March 1**

### ***Lotusland in Origami: Folded Paper Sculptures of Flora, Fauna and Ganna***

In anticipation of the re-opening of the Japanese Garden, we will present an exhibition of master works of origami — an art form that has its origins in Japan, and is now hugely popular worldwide. The exhibition will feature folded paper sculptures created by 15 local and national artists whose work has clearly transcended the craft of origami and entered the world of art. Co-curated by Asian art historian Meher McArthur, and artist Holly Sherwin, the exhibition will be divided into three themes, each representing one aspect of Lotusland: Flora, Fauna and Ganna.

Lotusland's Pavilion will come alive with origami birds, bugs, beasts and plant life folded by some of the most renowned artists in the origami world. All of the flowers and creatures — koi fish, butterflies, lotuses, succulents, crows and blue jays — will relate to those found in the gardens, and a section of origami dresses, purses and jewelry was inspired by Ganna Walska herself. The exhibit opens March 1 and runs through May 18 and is part of the garden tour.

## Gardens in Paradise



Connie Percy and Suzanne Mathews

**GARDENS IN PARADISE** offered a rare opportunity to experience the most exquisite and stunning private gardens in our area as a celebration of our 25th year as

a public garden. This year-long, six visitation series was an enormous success and was hallmarked by a partnership with The Garden Conservancy. The generosity of the host/owners and Angel sponsors combined to create memorable experiences in the most remarkable settings. We are grateful for the efforts of our Co-Chairs Daniel Bifano and Dorothy Gardner, whose tireless energies, creative talents and exquisite taste led to a peek inside many spectacular gardens.

**A special thank you to our Angel Series Sponsors:**

**Peggy and Kurt Anderson**

**Pat and Ron Caird**

**The Garden Conservancy**

**LLWW Foundation**

**Suzanne and Gilbert Mathews**

**Mimi Michaelis**

**Gretchen and Jack Norqual**

**Connie and John Percy**

**Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree**



Robert J. Lang



Jiangmei Wu

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **Saturday, January 12 • 1:30 to 3:30 PM** **Winter Walk**

**IN THE WINTER MONTHS** the amazing blooms of the aloes make the garden come alive in a most colorful fashion. Enjoy this unique educational opportunity to see the garden while Lotusland is closed for public tours. Spend an afternoon enjoying more than 140 species and cultivars of aloes on a crisp winter day. This is a special privilege for Lotusland Members and their guests only. Admission is \$40 for Members and their guests (\$20 for children 3-17 years old). Reservations are required and may be made by calling 805.969.9990.

### **Saturday, February 2 • 9:00 to 11:30 AM** **Morning Bird Walk at Lotusland**

**JOIN BIRD EXPERTS** and Lotusland research associate Jeff Chemnick, with Director Emeritus Steve Timbrook, 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 \$60 for Members and \$70 for Members' guests. For questions or reservations, please call 805.969.9990.



### **Saturday, February 16** **Lotusland Opens for the Season**

**THE GARDEN REOPENS FOR PUBLIC TOURS** after our winter recess. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to Lotusland with the magic of the low winter light and the blooms of the season that are especially spectacular in the Aloe Garden and the amazing display of cones in the Cycad Garden. Tours are at 10 AM and 1:30 PM. Members may self-guide but reservations are needed for all visits, please call 805.969.9990.





# LOTUSLAND GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES DONATIONS

September, October and November 2018

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Estate of Michael Towbes

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### CONNOISSEUR

Daniel Bifano & Allan Brostrom  
 Por La Mar Nursery / Pat & Ron Caird

### GROWER

Kathryn Dole Associates  
 Landscape Architecture  
 Lesa Jones  
 Jeffrey Romano & Stan Shayer

## NEW LOTUSLAND MEMBERS

**We welcome new members who joined in September, October and November 2018**

### GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS

#### CULTIVATOR

C. Joseph Bendy & S. Celine Bendy  
 Maureen & Edward Bousa  
 Kelley Mooney & Scott Henningsen  
 Jill & Robert Turner

#### ADVOCATE

Jonah Disend & David Altmejd  
 Venessa & Joseph Hurka  
 Debra Peacock & John Marsalar  
 Ann & John McReynolds

## NEW GENERAL MEMBERSHIPS

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Leigh & Alton Beerman  
Adam Coons & Jackie Rapuzzi  
Brooks Dexter  
Alycea Ench & Marcos Gey  
Pamela Gann & David Hardee  
Katherine Hunter & Katie Kramer

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Allison & Jeremy Glatstein  
Holly & Justin Kane  
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Alex Breed & Scot Feinberg  
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Philip & Lora Clarke  
Linda & Steve Cziraki  
Sherry & Tom Dargan  
Morgan Davies & Christy Agrawal  
Mary & Tim Funk  
Jan Hill & Margaret Cafarelli  
Ryan Hughes & Carly Richardson  
Maren & Mark Johnston  
C. Darryl Jones & David Goode  
Judy & Dan Kingma  
Martha & John Kirsten  
Martin Koob & Jenee Nelson  
George & Laurie Leis  
Lisa Lennon Irwin & David M. Irwin  
Curt & Mary Luthy  
Billy Masullo & Keenan Lineback  
Deborah & Thomas Meade  
Colleen & Phil Mesel  
Cathy & Bruce Milner  
Tim Morse & Amber Glabach  
Teresa Mottarella-Stribling & Rodney Stribling  
Michael Nasby & Denne Rodano  
Joan Samuels & Charlie Boles  
Kevin Showalter & Elvis Nunez  
David Sinclair & Fereshta Zamani-Sinclair  
Greg Strait & Roger Merians  
Arthur & Theresa Sturz  
Joan Tanner  
Lola Vance & Eric Moore  
Beth & Matthew Vaughan  
Michael Williams & Nataliia Yastremska  
Adam Zaidi & Melissa Toledo  
Angelo & Kim Zandona

### INDIVIDUAL

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Barbara Admans  
Anne Bass  
Marie Dassler  
Victoria Dillingham  
Hilary Garland  
Sandra Gilson  
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Claudia Guthrie  
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Brandy Ichishita  
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Susan Petrovich  
Linda Sands  
Valerie Serbein  
Michelle Simpson  
Simon Solberg  
Kellie Stoelting  
Liliana Taylor  
Jenna Weinstein  
Heidi Zin

## GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS RENEWING OR INCREASING LEVEL OF SUPPORT

September, October and November 2018

### GARDEN LOVER MEMBERS

#### STEWARD

Connie & John Pearcy

#### GUARDIAN

Cyndee Howard & Lesley Cunningham  
Jay & Talia Roston \*  
Mrs. Anitra P. Sheen

#### CONSERVATOR

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#### CULTIVATOR

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Alisa & Robert Baur \*  
KC & Randy Boelsems \*  
Sallie & Curt Coughlin  
Candace Dauphinot & Richard Brumm  
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Dittmann  
Jan D. Everote & Robert Claycomb  
Sintija & Harry Felder  
Catherine Hoffman & Jim Higgins  
Cynthia James \*  
Ms. Mahri Kerley  
Bill & Leah Lloyd  
John Margolis  
Mr. Steven K. McGuire  
Ms. Barbara Nagle Statler  
Ms. Nancy Parker & Mr. Eric Stull  
Debora & Gary Petlow \*  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Thompson  
Polly Turpin  
Nancy & John Vasi  
Carol Vernon & Bob Turbin  
Linda & Steve Wegener  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Woolley  
Monica Mardesich Woolner & Madeleine Walsh Woolner \*  
Alex & Gina Ziegler

\* Denotes Increased Support



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Santa Barbara, CA 93108

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# Winter 2019 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 12**

### **Winter Walk**

1:30 to 3:30 PM

See page 16

Call 805.969.9990 for reservations

## **Saturday, February 2**

### **Morning Bird Walk**

9:00 to 11:30 AM

See page 16

Call 805.969.9990 for reservations

## **Monday, February 4**

### **Annual Meeting**

4:00 to 6:00 PM

See page 14

## **Saturday, February 16**

### **Opening Day**

*Garden reopens for public tours  
after winter recess*

See page 16

## **Friday, March 1**

### **Exhibit Opens**

*Lotusland in Origami: Folded Paper  
Sculptures of Flora, Fauna and Ganna*

See page 15

## **Monday, March 5**

### **FOCUS TOUR: ALLURING ALOES with Tom Cole & Paul Mills**

2:30 to 5:00 PM

Call Member Services 805.969.3767

See page 12

## **Arrival Times for Tours**

### **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