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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members and Friends,

As we embark on a new year, our focus is on restoration and renewal — for Members and visitors, and for the Garden itself. When you visit, you will see repairs of damages following the recent storms, as well as improvement projects including replanting the

Lotus Pond and refurbishment of the historic Pavilion Patio.



Lotusland has always been an oasis from the stresses of the outside world. This year we promote the Garden as a space for personal restoration. Beginning in March, we launch a series of new activities, each designed to help you enjoy the array of sensory gifts that surround you. The first of these will be a Wellbeing Walk itinerary to enhance communion with nature that will enable you to experience the Garden in a new way. Additionally, skilled practitioners will lead a series of Wellbeing Wednesdays—sessions connecting you to nature's healing and resilience, providing a sense of

wholeness. You will feel more grounded and aligned after visiting the Garden with these tools that inspire greater attention and awareness.

Beyond delighting you with enriching programs and creative events, the staff and board have embarked on a long-range comprehensive plan to to secure Lotusland as a cultural asset in our community. This plan will protect and enhance the significant collections, estate, grounds, and aging infrastructure, to ensure they endure for the next generation.

As we look toward the future, we draw upon the wisdom of our garden's earliest inhabitants. Indigenous practices can guide us on how to harmonize with the natural world and promote a healthy ecosystem. Over centuries, each of the property's stewards have helped make Lotusland the biodiverse center it is today.

Over the past three decades Lotusland has been held in the public trust of devoted community leaders, philanthropists, staff, volunteers, and Members who have helped Lotusland flourish. Your support has created the garden known and loved by people everywhere.

Thank you for being a part of helping Lotusland manifest a vibrant year in celebration of nature and beauty.

It is an exciting time indeed!

Rebella

Rebecca Anderson
Executive Director

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 NEW BOARD PRESIDENT David M. Jones

We ushered in a new year at Lotusland with much needed rain for the Garden and our community.

We also began the year with a new slate of officers of the Board of Trustees. Lesley Cunningham has led us for the past three years during the COVID pandemic. We are eternally grateful for her tireless devotion and leadership. She will become the Immediate Past President, while I take over as Board President, Mari Mitchel will become Vice-President, and Stephen Schaible will continue as Treasurer, and Crystal Wyatt as Secretary.

We say a fond farewell to our departing Board Members Dorothy Gardner and Mimi Michaelis, and are pleased to introduce to you four new dynamic and talented trustees, Ashley Adelson, Jeanne Anderson, Mark Schmidt, and Wendy Schmidt. You will read more about their accomplishments in this issue of the newsletter.

We are proud to announce the development of a new website is underway, filled with images of the Garden taken by photographer Lisa Romerein. The site will offer easier navigation for making reservations to visit and explore.

Lotusland is a beloved community asset because of its extraordinary design. The Garden also plays a crucial role innovating and refining sustainable horticulture practices and plant conservation. With the full-scale return of our Junior Botanist program for fourth graders, Lotusland continues to make progress toward increasing the visibility of its "living classroom," using the gardens as well as the raw native lands of our sacred thirty-seven acres.

We are conscious that understanding climate change, global warming, and water shortages are critical issues we must all face together, and Lotusland is proud to serve as a leader in sharing sustainable horticulture and green gardening practices with our local and global communities.

Thank you for your incredible support. We are most appreciative of your loyal belief in the wonders of this magnificent garden.

Sincerely, David M. Jones President, Board of Directors



AS THE LAST OF THE LEAVES fall from the deciduous trees in the Japanese Garden, another level of beauty is revealed...the unveiling of the winter silhouettes.

In the Lotusland Japanese Garden many plants are evergreen, with their form and character on display all year; The stately pines and conifers with their evergreen needles, strong structure, and heavily barked trunk and the camellias showing off their colorful flowers on branches covered with green leaves.

It is the deciduous trees, the ones that lose their leaves, which provide another perspective. In the spring, they show their vibrant reds, greens, and every color in between. The trees form a full canopy during the summer and some show off sparks of color for the fall. In the winter they reveal their structure and character.

The winter silhouette exposes the trees in a new light — the movement and flow from the root crown to the trunk, all the way to the tiniest branchlet. Viewing

these trees with their winter silhouettes gives us that feeling of the season, unlike the evergreens that stay the same for most of the year.

As a pruner, this is a great time to do assessments, as everything is exposed. There are many different approaches when it comes to pruning. In Japan, the art of pruning has been practiced and developed for centuries to bring out the best in a tree. The term *niwaki* translates to 'garden tree', which differs from bonsai and means 'plant in a pot'. It is the highly-specialized pruning techniques using Japanese-style principles that sets them apart from a tree that grows naturally. In the Lotusland Japanese Garden, Frank Fujii passed on his knowledge of Japanese-style pruning to me. Along with Madame Ganna Walska, who created this space between 1968 -1972, Frank Fujii was one of the original designers. He taught a post-WWII style based upon bonsai techniques. However, these techniques are made to look more natural and unstructured.



ABOVE: Winter silhouette of a Japanese maple

I am honored to have started working with Frank in 1986. There was a lot to be done at that time, and many of the trees were just reaching their prime. Frank was maintaining and pruning the garden



LEFT: Terri Clay Bouck pruning a black pine tree. CENTER: Reflection of an American elm. RIGHT: Japanese maples with bold fall colors.

alone, and irrigating the entire garden by moving the sprinklers around. It was a great time to learn from the ground up, when things were challenging and still a little on the wild side.

As with most Japanese gardens, scale and proportion are essential. This was one of the first things we tackled, as many plants were overgrown and needed structure. In Japanese gardens, everything from groundcover to the tallest trees is tended to achieve settings that look natural and evoke a sense of tranquility and age. Many taller trees in a Japanese garden are pruned to a smaller scale to fit into a garden, in a courtyard, or next to a lantern. For example, trees that naturally grow 50-70 feet, like most pine trees, are pruned to a scale that fits into the design and space available. Some of the Lotusland pine trees are less than five feet tall!

This is living art, where we combine horticulture, science and experience to keep our plants healthy and beautiful. Our trees and plants also have to fit into the environment and functionality of each design, then we apply the 'rules' of

pruning to guide us. As pruners, we have a plan and we prune with intent, but one of the most important things I have learned in nearly 37 years of pruning is to also prune with no intent. We must step back (quite literally at times), and 'listen' to what the tree is telling us. This requires a feeling and understanding, to find the beauty and character in each tree. Our job as artists is to reveal what the tree has to say and the story it has to tell. This requires letting go of the analytical and looking into the artistry. We prune with feeling and heart, and create negative spaces to find the play of light and shadow, expose the beauty and see the harmony in the tree and its surroundings.

This season, please take a moment to admire this new perspective and to appreciate these beautiful winter silhouettes on display.



ABOVE: Japanese maple and Clyde ikins water lily

Horticultural Happenings

RISING FROM THE MUD By Holly Huff

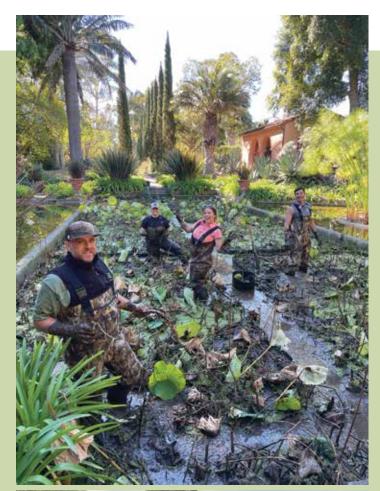
THE SACRED LOTUS, *Nelumbo nucifera*, holds symbolic importance in many cultures; rebirth, resilience, strength, healing, or purity. As we enter this new year, we are embracing the idea of rebirth and healing within our Water Garden as we make progress on a new renovation project. As some may have observed this past season, our lotus began showing signs of stress and general loss of vigor. Over the summer months, Curation, Garden, and Plant Health Care staff started conversations addressing the changing conditions of the pond and what our next steps should be.

According to our plant records, the current Lotus Pond design was implemented approximately 18 years ago. This would have also been the last time the pond was de-mucked on a large scale or had soil conditions addressed. At the time, there were eight types of lotus planted, each separated by a plastic barrier. Over the years the barriers failed to contain them and one or two lotus types began to dominate the entire pond and outcompete the others.

Lotus are aquatic plants that grow in wetlands, floodplains, or bodies of water. They spread vigorously via a tuberous rhizome that sends up leaves and flowers at the nodes. Lotus rhizomes are notorious for their invasive potential in certain environments, spreading across or just below the soil surface, even creeping out of the water and into surrounding garden beds. Digging and probing into our lotus beds revealed an extremely dense network of rhizomes that require division and replanting to create space and better access to the soil.

Another major issue we addressed is the amount of muck accumulated over the years from organic inputs and settled runoff. Lotus are incredibly resilient, but with an average of one foot of muck in the water, we were concerned about excess nutrient loads, possible heavy metal contamination, low available oxygen, and poor light penetration. In mid-November we drained the pond and collected samples from the soil, muck, rhizome, and leaf tissue to be sent to a lab for analysis. Thankfully, our results came back with mostly appropriate levels, and those needing attention will likely be remediated by the renovation project.

With the pond drained, the Garden staff spent a week in November pulling lotus rhizomes to save and overwinter. Each rhizome had to be hand-traced into the soil and cut, leaving a minimum of two nodes, while avoiding damage to











TOP: Garden staff harvesting rhizomes. CENTER LEFT: Lotus Pond after de-mucking. CENTER RIGHT: Vacuum truck and roll off container to transport mud. BOTTOM LEFT: Preparing rhizomes to be stored in sphagnum moss. BOTTOM RIGHT: Rhizomes pulled from the Lotus Pond. PHOTOGRAPHY BY: Holly Huff

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LEFT: Drone image of the Cycad Garden with redesigned wheel chair accessible pathways and new gathering area. Photo by Harry Linden. **RIGHT**: Cycad Gardener, Jorge Mendieta, together with volunteer Curt Luthy, replanting cycads.

COLLECTIONS NEWS

Replanting the Cycad Garden

By Paul Mills, Director of Conservation and Curator of the Living Collections

AS WE LOOK BACK on the last few months of 2022, an important milestone was achieved in the recently renovated portion of the Cycad Garden. The first group of Mexican cycads (17 plants) that had previously been infected with Armillaria mellea, or oak root fungus, were replanted into the Cycad Garden (see Collections News, Summer 2022 Newsletter for more information). These cycads were part of the initial group removed from the Garden in the winter of 2020 during the early stage of our Save the Cycads Armillaria remediation project, at which point we were starting to assess the extent of the infected area. All of these plants were inspected and excised of tissue infected with the fungus. The amount of roots these cycad cuttings have regenerated after being triaged is truly impressive! They were nursed back to health in the hoop house at the nursery that was built specifically for this project. There are a number of additional cycads coming out of the "cycad hospital" hoop house in the spring of 2023 that were previously infected and have now rerooted and flushed new leaves.

One of many highlights among the cycads that were recently replanted is an old specimen of *Dioon califanoi*, whose multiple re-rooted stems are now once again on display in the fully renovated Mexican section of the Cycad Garden. Our plant records database shows that this plant was initially planted more than 30 years ago and it is one of our more important Mexican cycad species. Listed as Endangered in the Wild by the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature), *D. califanoi* has a very restricted range in mountainous northern Oaxaca and southeastern

Puebla, with an estimated number of plants in the wild being less than 3000. Wild populations of plants such as this become very susceptible to disturbances, making their ex situ (off site) conservation in botanic gardens such as Lotusland crucial for their long-term survival.

Reflecting on our successful Phase One of the Save the Cycads *Armillaria* remediation project, a significant portion of the garden was renovated and many additional improvements were made. We now look ahead to 2023 and planning for the upcoming phases in additional parts of the garden that we've identified as having *Armillaria* present. Look for updates in future newsletters!





LEFT: Grounds Supervisor, Junio Milanese, with a re-rooted piece of *Dioon califanoi* ready to be replanted. **RIGHT**: Healthy roots on a previously infected stem of *Dioon califanoi*

MADAME'S MEDALS

News from the Archive

LAST YEAR THE ARCHIVE was delighted to receive a custom jeweled pin made by Cartier in 1931 for Madame Ganna Walska, donated by Thomasine Richards, from the estate of Hania Tallmadge and with the support of her son Mark Bacon and his wife Laura. The Cartier pin is a reproduction of two significant medals awarded to Madame Walska by the Polish government – the WWI General J. Haller's Swords and the Gold Cross of Merit. The exquisite Cartier creation reproduces these medals — now gold inset primarily with diamonds and rubies — hanging from a single crossbar pin.

The Haller's Swords decoration is a diamond-shaped badge with crossed swords and a white enameled eagle in the center. The ribbon is composed of a vertical grey-blue stripe framed by thinner yellow and red pinstripes along its edge. Established in 1918, the medal was originally given to Polish-American arrivals who joined the Polish Army in France under the command of General Jozef Haller. Our research continues regarding when and why Madame Walska was honored with this medal, but in her memoirs, *Always Room at the Top*, she recalls of her contributions:

...while in Paris during the first few months of World War I, being entirely free, having no family, no obligations, ... still I could not have gone to the front, because the merest drop of blood almost made me faint, and so I knew I would only be a nuisance to the doctors and a hindrance to the sick. Later, in America, I sang in the Polish camps but in France I sewed sheets for the soldiers in Hospital..

The Cross of Merit is a Leopold cross of four arms with sunlight rays between the arms and a center medallion bearing the initials "RP" for *Rzeczpospolita Polska*/Republic of Poland. The ribbon is dark red with two vertical grey-blue stripes on the sides. Established in 1923, it was given to citizens who went beyond the call of duty in their work for the country and society as a whole. At the time of its establishment, it was the highest civilian honor in Poland and was awarded in one of three classes — gold, silver, or bronze — in order of prestige. Madame Walska was awarded the Gold Cross of Merit in 1931 for her service to the arts.

Madame Walska was also awarded two prestigious medals from the French government: In 1934, she received the *Légion d'Honneur* and in 1972, *l'Ordre National des Arts et des Letters*. These medals were in recognition of the cultural contributions of the renowned Théâtre de Champs Èlysées in Paris, which she owned for fifty years.

 Natalie Sanderson, Archives Preservation Manager and Rose Thomas, Research Associate





RIGHT: Madame Walska wearing the ribbon representing her Polish Medals, standing next to her former manager Sol Hurok.

INSECTS

A Cornerstone to Sustainability

By Corey Welles



IN OUR MOST RECENT ISSUE we outlined sustainable cornerstones for gardening, the first of a series of articles that delves deeper into understanding what is sustainable gardening and why is it so important to our environment. This article highlights the importance of insects as foundational to a healthy garden.

All healthy gardens have a robust insect ecology. Insects are extremely important to the survival of our landscapes — a garden will not thrive long-term without a healthy insect population. Insects have a variety of environmental functions which are so diverse scientists are still unraveling the mysteries of their ecology. Unfortunately, we are taught to fear insects and to consider some bad and some good. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Some important facts about insects:

- One third of the food we eat can be directly attributed to bees pollinating agricultural crops, and without them our food supply would collapse.
- California has incredibly diverse ecosystems and estimates of the number of native bee species are as high as 1,800 types of unique bees.
- Ninety-six percent of all birds feed insects to their young, so the survival of both migratory and resident birds depends on insects.
- Oak trees have a tremendous insect ecology, with over 2,000 different **insect inhabitants**. The reality is all insects serve the environment in very important ways. Even the insects we call 'bad guys' have a place in our gardens.

For example, we need the insects (in small numbers) that eat our plants because these insects are the food for predatory beneficial insects and thus sustain an ecological balance.

When insects are attracted to our favorite plants in large numbers, invariably this tells us where our horticulture is lacking. Infestations from aphids, whitefly, scale, mealy bugs and many other so-called 'pest insects' can be caused by underwatering, overwatering, poor soil qualities, and, most often, the overuse of chemical fertilizers. All of these problems can be solved easily with just a little investigation and without the use of any chemicals. Once your garden is thriving with beneficial insects, other pests won't have an easy time establishing themselves, and this should continue indefinitely, naturally. It may seem counterintuitive, but during spring and summer if you don't see clouds of small insects floating in the air around the yard, this indicates a big problem. Those tiny insects swarming in the warm springtime air are the basis for an entire ecosystem in your yard that attract many other creatures, all of whom protect the balance of nature.

HERE ARE SOME STEPS YOU CAN TAKE FOR A HEALTHY GARDEN AND **INSECT ECOLOGY**

- 1. Plant at least 1/3 of your landscape with native California plants, both annuals and perennials, because they provide the exact types of pollen and nectar needed.
- 2. Find out which popular exotic plants attract insects and plant 1/3 of your garden with those, e.g. lavender, salvias, herbs and annuals like alyssum, hollyhocks, and zinnias.
- 3. Plant 1/3 of the garden with your favorite exotic plants, the 2/3 other plants will provide habitat you need.

DON'T

- 1. Spray pesticides
- 2. Apply chemical fertilizer
- 3. Plant your entire landscape with popular exotic plants that look 'flashy', but are not proven to provide pollen and nectar to beneficial insects.

WELCOME

Introducing New Trustees

LOTUSLAND'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES welcomed four new members in January. Our official ceremony to welcome them takes place at our Annual Meeting on March 7. Please get to know them and join us in thanking them for their service when you meet them in the Garden.



ASHLEY ADELSON

Ashley Adelson, a California native, completed her bachelor's degree at Chapman University and earned her MBA while living in Europe. She continued to live abroad while she worked in the active travel industry. During this time, Ashley's passion for gardening grew as she toured notable gardens throughout the world.

As time progressed, Ashley developed and led philanthropic programs in North America, Asia, and Africa, where her continued passion for nature, culture, and building connections flourished.

Now, as a full-time resident of Montecito, Ashley welcomes her passion derived from her time and experience abroad. She dedicates her days to practicing regenerative farming, learning about soil health, and cultivating a blossoming garden. She is becoming expressive in the science behind the garden as well as the aesthetics which make it appealing to the viewer.



JEANNE ANDERSON

Jeanne Anderson and her husband Robbie live in Montecito and Beverly Hills and have been Lotusland Members since 1994. In addition to being a longtime member of the Beverly Hills Garden Club, Jeanne has been a volunteer and supporter of The Garden Conservancy for 20 years. She

organized and ran the Garden Conservancy's Open Garden Days tour in Los Angeles for almost two decades, first by herself, then joined by fellow Lotusland Trustee Joseph Marek. She serves as a Board member and is past president of the Virginia Robinson Gardens in Beverly Hills. Jeanne's dedicated and remarkable support of the Virginia Robinson Gardens helped restore the Orchid Greenhouse, the Children's Program, the Kitchen Garden and numerous other projects. Jeanne has a strong passion for botanical gardens, historic preservation, and conservation.



MARK SCHMIDT

Mark Schmidt recently retired as the Director of Finance and Operations at Crane Country Day School. Prior to his experience working as an independent school administrator, Mark was the CEO and a founder of Ledge Energy Group, a physical energy trading firm focused on trading and marketing

refined products primarily in the Caribbean and Latin American markets. Before working at Ledge Energy Group, Mark had a long career in the investment business as a founder and portfolio manager of various partnerships.

He has also been active as a volunteer in various service organizations, particularly those focused on affordable housing and community engagement.

Mark has had a long-standing interest in horticulture and sustainability, which he developed in his younger years while working in various roles on farms and with forest managers in New England. His interest was further developed when he and his wife purchased an abandoned farm in Vermont and, over several years, restored the land to its original condition.



WENDY SCHMIDT

Wendy Schmidt is a philanthropist and investor who has spent nearly two decades creating innovative non-profit organizations to work with communities around the world for clean, renewable energy, resilient food systems, healthy oceans, and the protection of human rights. The

critical interconnections between human activity, the land we live on, and the ocean we depend upon are the central drivers of Wendy's philanthropic work. Wendy serves as president of The Schmidt Family Foundation, which she founded with her husband Eric. They also founded Schmidt Ocean Institute and Schmidt Futures.



Presented in association with series sponsor Belle Hahn.

Wellbeing Wednesdays Eight dates available

Skilled professionals will lead a series of Wellbeing Wednesdays, special sessions for regular doses of nature's healing, resilience, and a sense of wholeness. Classes will be led by local practitioners and wellbeing experts trained in Tai Chi, Yoga, Sound Bathing, Guided Meditation, and more. Each class consists of a 45-minute guided activity followed by a 45-minute walk in the Garden.

Please visit Lotusland.org/events to reserve your space today.

Dates: March 1, April 5, May 10, June 7, July 5, August 16, September 13, October 11

Members: \$40 per class Non-Members: \$75 per class

Reserve all eight sessions and receive one session free! Please call Lotusland Reservations to book bundle pricing.

805.969.9990

Series for Members \$280 for eight classes; Series for Non-Members \$525 for eight classes

Self-Guided Walks for Wellbeing - anytime you visit!

In 2023, Lotusland will debut our new Walks for Wellbeing. All self-guided visitors will be offered a Wellbeing guidebook with instruction and inspiration for 10 distinct, mindfulness-based moments at locations throughout the Garden. Reflections and prompts will be provided, to explore your emotional awareness and sensorial experience. These printed guides will provide an opportunity to deepen each guest's connection to the Garden through self-guided moments for mindfulness and natural immersion. The walks are designed to be self-paced, and participants choose when and how to engage with the material. With two versions, one for adults and one for families and children, each brochure is designed to provide Members and visitors an enhanced visit and sense of curiosity, imagination, and wonder.

Request a complimentary guide from our Visitor Center staff upon arrival, starting in March 2023.

Retreat with PALMA at Lotusland

Immerse yourself in the healing properties of the Garden through a guided mindfulness retreat that will leave you with a deeper connection to self, spirit, and community. The retreat is hosted by Palma Collective, a collaboration of healing arts, wellness events, and conscious retail. Activities include a traditional Way Of Tea Ceremony in the Japanese Garden served by Morgann Francesca and Baelyn Elspeth, followed by a farm-to-table lunch by LA-based chef Natacha Stojanovic. The experience will conclude with a Breathwork and Reiki circle held by Lara Elliot in the Theater Garden. Conscious gifting included.

For more information please visit our website, https://www.lotusland.org/events.

THANK YOU

Philanthropic Memberships Sustain the Garden

GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND gratefully acknowledges all *Garden Lover* Circle members. Your support provides the crucial funding needed to keep Lotusland open to the public, and helps support our globally significant plant collections and sustainable horticultural practices. Thank you sincerely, for helping to keep the vitality of the Garden alive.

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*Garden Lover Memberships start at \$1,000

**Deceased



NEW YEAR New Website

To coincide with the start of the 2023 season, we are introducing our newly designed website, filled with exceptional images of the Garden taken by the LOTUSLAND book photographer Lisa Romerein. The new site offers userfriendly navigation and technology, simplifying the reservation process, and online experience. Coming soon!

MEMBERS

Shop and Save

For 2023: New Shop and Save Partners!

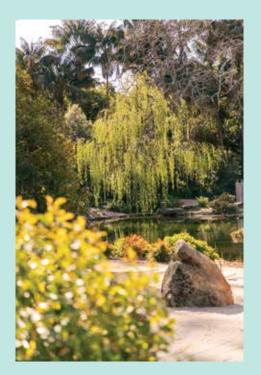
This year we welcome our first coffee shop to the Shop and Save Program - Caffe Luxxe located at the Montecito Country Mart! The team at Caffe Luxxe is excited to appreciate our Members after a lovely day of touring Lotusland by offering 10% off in-store purchases.

Please consider visiting our nursery and retail partners when you're shopping for new plants or landscaping supplies: Terra Sol Garden Center and Sea Crest Palm and Cycad Nursery in Santa Barbara, Aqua-Flo Supply (landscape and irrigation supply) in Santa Barbara and Goleta, and Merrihew's Sunset Garden in Santa Monica.

See below for a complete list of all our participating Shop and Save Partners.

Interested in joining Lotusland as a Member? Have questions about your membership?

Contact David Houser at dhouser@lotusland.org or call 805.969.3767 ext. 115.



Lotusland Garden Shop 10%



Open before and after your reserved tour time. Or shop online at lotuslandshop.org

Use code: memberssave10





18 N. Milpas Street Santa Barbara, CA 93103 progardensupply.com

Terra Sol Garden Center 109



5320 Overpass Road Santa Barbara, CA 93111 terrasolgardencenter.com

Sea Crest Palm and Cycad Nursery 10%



5299 Shoreline Drive Santa Barbara, CA 93111 seacrestnursery.com

Island Feed and Seed 109



29 S. Fairview Avenue Goleta, CA 93117 islandseed.com

Paradise Farm 10%



909 Carlo Drive Goleta, CA. 93117 paradisefarmbiz.wordpress.com

Caffe Luxxe 10%



Located at Montecito Country Mart 1028 Coast Village Road Santa Barbara, CA 93108 caffeluxxe.com

Carpinteria Valley Lumber 15%



933 Elm Avenue Carpinteria, CA 93013 carpinteriavalleylumber.com

Island View Nursery 15%



3376 Foothill Road Carpinteria, CA 93013 islandviewnursery.com

Seaside Gardens 10%



3700 Via Real Carpinteria, CA 93103 seaside-garden.com

Australian Native Plants 10%



9040 N. Ventura Avenue Ventura, CA 93001 australianplants.com

Baron Brothers Nursery 20%



7568 Santa Rosa Road Camarillo, CA 93012 baronbrothers.com

Merrihew's Sunset Garden 10



1526 Ocean Park Boulevard Santa Monica, CA 90405 merrihewsnursery.com

Aqua-Flo Supply 10%



18 Milpas Street Santa Barbara, CA 93103 and 30 S. La Patera Lane, #10 Goleta, CA 93117 aguaflo.com

Seven Day Nursery 10%



3301 State Street Santa Barbara, CA 93105 7daynursery.com



A Special Thank You

PLEASE JOIN IN appreciating **Past Lotus Society Chair and former Trustee, Peggy Wiley**, who lovingly grew *The Lotus Society* and as a result, Lotusland's endowment, providing a stable source of funds to help the Garden flourish.

The Lotus Society Appreciation Events

Saturday, June 3 Lotus Society Member Gathering

Each year we gather Members of *The Lotus Society* in a beautiful local private garden for a cocktail reception.

Tuesday, September 12 Victoria Kastner Lecture and Book Signing

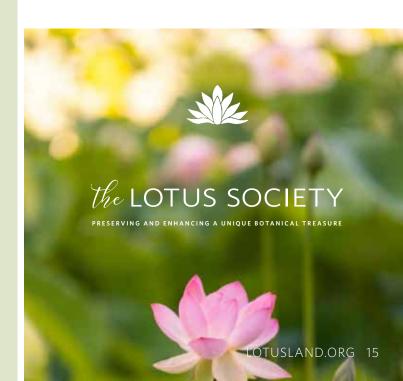
Author Victoria Kastner shares thoughts about and insights into her latest book, *Julia Morgan: An Intimate Biography of the Trailblazing Architect*

Invitations to follow.



A LIVING LEGACY A Lasting Impact

of beauty and serenity by including Lotusland in your estate plan today. *The Lotus Society* offers the opportunity for like-minded individuals who have chosen to help sustain the Garden for future generations to participate in several exclusive annual events. If you are ready to join, or have already included the Garden in your estate plan, simply let us know so that we may invite you to Lotus Society events and add your name to the Wall of Honor. To inform us of your intentions, or for more information, please contact the Development Office at 805.969.3767, ext. 125 or go to: www.lotusland.org.



Monday, March 13, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. **The Garden Conservancy Spring 2023 Tour** Dr. Sue Stuart-Smith, The Well-Gardened Mind The Ebell of Los Angeles

The Garden Conservancy is offering discount tickets to Lotusland Members for their 2023 National Speaking Tour. The Spring 2023 Tour will feature Dr. Sue Stuart-Smith, prominent British psychiatrist and psychotherapist, speaking about her book The Well-Gardened Mind. The event will take place Monday, March 13, at The Ebell of Los Angeles, a historic women's club and event venue located in Hancock Park. A reception will follow the lecture.

\$45 Members. If you are interested in attending, please email dhouser@lotusland.org for registration details.

Saturday, April 8, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. **Picnic in the Theatre Garden** Spring has Sprung

In April the roses begin to bloom and the Insectary Garden is in its full glory. Bring the whole family for an outing to enjoy live music in the Theatre Garden.

Members: \$50 Adults, \$10 Children Non-Members: \$75 Adults, \$25 Children

Space is limited and reservations are required. View more information and reserve online at Lotusland.org/events

Saturday, April 15, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. **Sustainability Symposium:**

Solutions for a Cleaner, Greener Planet

ALL ARE WELCOME! Join friends of Lotusland at a former lemon packing house in Santa Paula for an afternoon of education and connections, against a backdrop of palm trees, lemons trees and exotic succulents. Details and directions provided upon registration. Visit Lotusland.org/ events to register.

\$10 ticket includes:

- Access to the Symposium
- Parking
- Complimentary Refreshments

With this speaker series, co-creators Eric Nagelmann, acclaimed landscape designer, and host Xavier Maignan are inviting industry professionals to explore pressing environmental issues, and raise awareness of the risks, and opportunities, facing our communities.

At Lotusland, we continuously aspire to be facilitators for environmental stewardship. It has become apparent that the long-term use of toxic pesticides, fungicides, and chemically-based fertilizers can pollute water sources, destroy soil ecosystems, and harm people and animals. Since 1997, we have proven ourselves to be a powerful leader in sustainable horticulture and the conservation of our area.



This symposium is designed to help participants learn about positive advances in sustainability. The success of Lotusland and our friends in related fields can now serve as a resource to the community and point of departure for broader discussions aimed at providing insight and solutions to promote ecological balance, and the development of a cleaner, greener world.

Emcee:

Stacy Pulice, Psychologist and Educator

Keynote Speakers:

Elisa Read, Landscape Designer, Horticulture and Fire Ecology Specialist

Garland Reiter Sr.,

Executive Chairman, Reiter Affiliated Companies

Panelists:

Vishaal Khanna, Botanical Specialist

Thetis Sammons, Agricultural Consultant for Sustainability Kel Mitchel, Project Manager Renewable Resources Group LLC

Friday, April 28, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. **Garden Golden Hour**

VIEW THE GARDEN in the magical light of late afternoon when the botanical colors and textures come alive. Wander at your leisure as you enjoy wine and light hors d'oeuvres. The chance to stroll the Garden as the sun begins to set is a special opportunity reserved for Lotusland Members and their guests only.

Admission is \$50 for Members and \$75 for Member's Guests. Space is limited and reservations are required.

View more information and reserve online at Lotusland.org/events



Saturday, May 13, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Kokedama With Your Mama



TREAT MOM TO AN AFTERNOON at Lotusland with a picnic in the iconic Theatre Garden and learn the Japanese art of Kokedama.

Make your own Kokedama, an artful technique of displaying a plant specimen in a ball of soil wrapped in moss secured with twine. Supplies will be provided and Lotusland staff will teach you this fascinating process.

Bring an optional basket of goodies and a blanket to picnic in the Theatre Garden. Be sure to take the time to explore the Garden as well!

\$50 for Members and \$75 for Member's Guests. Space is limited and reservations are required. View more information and reserve online at Lotusland.org/events



WELCOME New Staff



FIONA BRENNAN Director of Finance

Fiona Brennan joined Lotusland as Director of Finance in August 2022. She has a background in finance and brings more than 20 years of experience in corporate finance. Prior to Lotusland, Fiona served as the Director of Finance & Operations at Habitat for Humanity of Southern

Santa Barbara County. She was proud to be able to see families become homeowners in Carpinteria, which was the highlight during her time with Habitat. Fiona was the UCCE Master Gardener Coordinator of Santa Barbara County and managed volunteers who educated our local communities through public workshops and events. She is thrilled to bring her love of gardens and nonprofits together at Lotusland. In her spare time she enjoys volunteering at local agencies in Ventura and Santa Barbara.



DAVID HOUSER Membership and Development Coordinator

David Houser joined Lotusland's staff in October 2022 as the Membership and Development Coordinator, David earned his Masters of Environmental Science from Miami University in Oxford, OH and has been an educator for

environmental non-profit organizations for the past several years, including previous positions at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont and the New England Aquarium in Boston.

David is an avid bird watcher and enjoys running, yoga, biking, exploring coastal California, and tending to his patio garden.



SAMANTHA LLOYD-KNAUF **Donor and Member Relations** Manager

Samantha Lloyd-Knauf joined the Lotusland team in October 2022 as its Donor and Member Relations Manager. She holds a Master's Degree in Art and Cultural Management from the University of Bologna and a double degree in

Art History and Italian from UC Berkeley. Before joining Lotusland, Samantha worked in fundraising at the Civitella Ranieri Foundation and Smithsonian Arts + Industries Building. Samantha most recently worked in donor relations at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles. She is thrilled to return to Santa Barbara to be closer to family and friends, pursue her fascination for gardens, and help oversee Lotusland's beloved philanthropic membership group, the Garden Lover Circle. Samantha enjoys touring historic homes, collecting handmade baskets, traveling, and the ocean.



LISA STONE Director of Visitor Services and Public Programs

Lisa Stone joined Lotusland in August of 2022 as the Director of Visitor Services and Public Programs. Born and raised on the Jersey Shore, she completed a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Merrimack College. Lisa began her

career as a Boston child protective social worker and eventually moved to California to pursue a career in education. She became an elementary school teacher, and served as a mentor and leader in private and public schools for over ten years. Her love of education led her to educational program management where Lisa designed, implemented and created enrichment programming, managed teams of educators, tutors and staff. She moved to Santa Barbara to join Lotusland and is looking forward to immersing herself in the local culture and community.

THE GARDEN AWAITS Ways to Visit

WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT LOTUSLAND, widely considered to be among the best botanical gardens in the world.



Due to recent storms, some gardens may be closed for repair and restoration. Please check the website for details.

Docent-Led Tours

We recommend a docent-led tour on your first visit to the Garden. A docent-guided experience is our foundational tour, which originated when the Garden opened almost 30 years ago. On your docent-led tour, a highly knowledgeable volunteer provides a rich history of the property while escorting you around the Garden. Their extensive knowledge gives you an exclusive look into all that Lotusland offers—from landscape design, to horticulture, to historical information and interpretation. This is a special experience not to be missed.

Self-Guided Visits

Experience the Garden with a self-guided Garden walk. During your visit you are able to wander through the Garden at your own pace and enjoy the beauty that surrounds you. Volunteer Garden Guides are walking throughout the grounds to answer questions and help provide a safe and informative visit.

Member Visits

Members receive priority access for all tour dates. If you are interested in supporting the Garden while discovering Lotusland's horticultural splendor, behind-the-scenes tours, lectures and receptions, and deepening your support of our mission, consider becoming a Garden Lover Member. Membership has never been more important to steward our horticulture, education and historic preservation.

Volunteer at Lotusland

Volunteering at Lotusland offers a meaningful experience with a community of like-minded people. Volunteers who retain an active status have visiting privileges during the open season. Please complete our online volunteer form at Lotusland.org to be contacted about volunteer opportunities.

WISH LIST Help Advance Lotusland's Mission

Storm Repairs and Pathway Replacements • \$25,000+

Our hearts go out to everyone impacted by the severe storms that passed through California in January on the 5th anniversary of the Montecito debris flow.

On addition to other damage, many of Lotusland's pathways were compromised. We are seeking funding to help rebuild and restore these paths. With your help, Lotusland will rebound from this storm and continue to flourish.

Taylor-Dunn Electric Cart • \$15,000

For our Grounds and Facilities Staff at Lotusland. Many of the carts used by the Garden and Facilities Staff are old and



require regular repair. We hope to purchase a new electric cart for daily use to improve our efficiency of work on our 37 acres.

International Conference on Cycad Biology • \$6,000

Lotusland's Director of Conservation and Curator of Living Collections, Paul Mills, will attend the International Conference on Cycad Biology in July 2023. The conference offers an invaluable opportunity to hear the latest about cycad conservation, horticulture, genetics and systematics and ethnobotany, Lotusland staff has attended every conference almost since the early 1990s. After a hiatus of five years, this year's conference will be held in July in the Philippines.





We are gratefully accepting donations of any size to support these projects.

LOTUSLAND GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES DONORS

September, October, November, and December 2022

THE LOTUS SOCIETY

Marian Jean

SAVE THE CYCADS

Adele and Loi Nguyen

JAPANESE GARDEN RENOVATION

Anonymous Lucky One Foundation, directed by Lily Hahn

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT & MASTER PLAN

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GRANTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

ENHANCED SECURITY

Mimi Michaelis

MAIN HOUSE PLANT SPECIMENS

Charles and Alex Morse

VISITOR CENTER

Santa Barbara Foundation

GREEN COTTAGE REFURBISHMENTS

Kim L. Hunter and Paulo P. Lima, Ph.D.

ARCHIVES PRESERVATION

Patty Elias and Michael Rosenfeld in recognition of Rose Thomas

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Bob Young
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IN-KIND DONATIONS

Laura M. Bridley Merryl Brown

- *All the donations acknowledged above are gifts of \$100 or more
- ** Deceased

Horticultural Happenings continued from page 6 RISING FROM THE MUD

the growing points. We were able to harvest over 100 tubers, which is more than enough to repopulate the pond. Storage of this scale has not been necessary in the past, so we are taking this opportunity to try a few different overwintering methods. Fifty rhizomes were planted in water lily pots and placed in the flanking Hardy Water Lily Pond, 25 were placed directly in soil and water in a large tub, and about 30 were packed in bins of damp sphagnum moss and stored in a cool dark space. We are hoping that this varied approach will give us insight for future lotus storage techniques.

We are so thankful to have received an incredibly generous donation to contract out the de-mucking work and have the job completed this past December by Environmental Logistics. They removed over one foot of sludge and old plant material in two days with a large vacuum truck, three roll-off containers, and a small crew with shovels. Quite a sight to see!

Our next steps in the project will be altering the bed by removing the old plastic barriers within the pond and adjusting soil levels. The goal is to allow one type of lotus to fill the pond, unencumbered. We hope to re-introduce our overwintered plant material and refill the pond water in early spring, just before the growing season. It may take some time for the lotus to re-establish, spread, and gift us with lush flowers, but we are thrilled to be taking these steps to ensure the long-term health and success of this iconic pond. For those hoping to view lotus flowers this summer, please come visit our recently renovated Japanese Garden at the Lotus Viewing Deck!





LEFT: Vacuuming the Lotus Pond. RIGHT: De-mucking project complete.



House and Garden, Zambia – Zambia, South Africa and Architectural Digest, Italy

NOT ONLY is *Lotusland, Eccentric Garden Paradise* being recognized in many of the largest lifestyle, nature, wildlife, and garden magazines in our nation, now Lotusland is reaching international status! Travelers worldwide are discovering her secrets and being inspired to bring more beauty to their own gardens and landscapes.

A Special Place for Gifts

Handmade gifts are available in Lotusland's Garden Shop and online at **lotuslandshop.org.** Members save 10% on all purchases.

JANE SEYMOUR DEBUTS SIGNATURE LOTUSLAND SCARF

Aeonium Rosettes

\$95.00 20"x70" 100% Modal

Jane Seymour Designs is excited to debut its first Lotusland wearable art. This delicate design captures the subtle color variations of the abundant succulents found within Lotusland. After visiting Ganna Walska's gardens, Jane was inspired by the beautiful blue-green hues of the Aeonium succulents and blue slag glass. The scarf will be a welcome addition to any spring wardrobe. Digital print adapted from original artwork by Jane Seymour.

AUTHENTIC JAPANESE BONSAI SHEARS

Sakurahamon Okubo Bonsai Shears

\$48.00

Okubo shears are designed with a strong neck and handle to cut branches, flower stems, ropes and are useful for bonsai work, general gardening, and flower arrangements. The round, wide handle is easy to grip. The blades are carbon steel laminated with soft steel. Overall length is 7". Blade length is 2".







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Winter 2023

For more detailed information about upcoming events, please see page 16 or visit Lotusland.org/events.

Wednesday, March 1
Wellbeing Wednesday

Saturday, April 1
Wellness Retreat with PALMA

Wednesday, April 5
Wellbeing Wednesday

Saturday, April 8
Picnic and Music in the Garden

Saturday, April 15 Sustainability Symposium

Friday April 28 Member's Garden Golden Hour Wednesday, May 10 Wellbeing Wednesday Series

Saturday, May 13 Kokedama with Your Mama

Wednesday, June 7
Wellbeing Wednesday

Lotusland Tour Schedule

We look forward to welcoming you to Lotusland! This season, we are offering docent-led and self-guided tour options. Public visitation days are Wednesdays through Saturdays. Visit lotusland.org/visit/to check availability and reserve your tour. Space is limited and advance reservations are required. We recommend making reservations one month in advance of your desired visit.

2023 Ticket Release Schedule

Members receive access to reservations two weeks prior to the public release.

May - June Reservations

Member's Pre-Release March 21 • Public Release April 4

July - August Reservations

Member's Pre-Release May 16 • Public Release May 30

September - November Reservations

Member's Pre-Release July 18 • Public Release August 1

Additional information is available at www.lotusland.org/visit