

Ganna
Walska



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2023

ENGAGING THE SENSES

The Healing Power of Nature

STORM REPORT

Weathering the Storms

PHOTO: Citrus Orchard at Lotusland, by Edwin Rodriguez Jr.



695 Ashley Road
Santa Barbara, California 93108
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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members and Friends,

Have you heard of a "Soil Renaissance"? When you visit Lotusland, you are witness to its results: they surround you! Lotusland is a Paradise Found for plants, largely because it exists as an all-organic biodiverse ecosystem. When you visit, you may not notice the indicators of the microbial explosion of healthy matter lying beneath, but I'm here to report that at Lotusland, soil health is alive and well!

The Garden's beauty and health can be attributed to soil. It's the most essential ingredient — along with the labor of our dedicated horticultural staff and volunteers.



This spring, we hosted our first-ever Sustainability Symposium at the invitation of Eric Nagelmann, a devoted Garden Ambassador. It was an experimental event held offsite, so as not to take away from the limited numbers of coveted garden reservations. The Symposium was designed to pioneer conversations about sustainability and to educate and engage our caring and conscious community of environmental champions.

We heard from environmental stewardship thought leaders, landscape designers, water consultants, and global growers. All are endeavoring to build thriving soils for more productive plants and a healthier planet.

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in April more than 100 friends of the Garden listened and learned for three hours about best practices in organic gardening and ecology. Attendees included city officials, students and home gardeners.

Whether you are seeking to do your part with composting in your kitchen or attracting beneficial insects to your gardens, we encourage you to bring some sustainable practices to your home.

Lotusland is here to help! As with everything at Lotusland, we will grow these programs with your involvement and investment. Drop me a line if you have an interest in supporting this work. It is the future of the Garden!

With gratitude,

Rebecca Anderson
Executive Director

randerson@lotusland.org

MISSION

We preserve and enhance the unique, historic estate of Madame Ganna Walska, care for and improve its collections, and develop its conservation and horticulture programs, so they educate us, inspire us, and advance our understanding and appreciation of the importance of plants in our lives and in the life of the planet

SUMMER 2023

Contents

- 2 Letter from the Executive Director
- 3 New Board Officers Elected
- 4 The Healing Power of Nature
- 6 Horticultural Happenings
- 7 Collections News
- 8 Your Legacy, Our Future
- 9 Well-Being Walking Guides
- 10 *Lotusland Celebrates:*
Where The Wild Things Grow
- 13 Wishlist
- 14 Upcoming Events
- 16 Lotusland Lemon Arbor Replica
- 16 Delegation of Maya Forest Gardeners
Visit Lotusland
- 17 Museums for All
- 17 Weathering the Storm
- 18 Welcome New Staff
- 19 Rose Thomas Retires
- 20 Donors
- 22 Sustainability Symposium
- 22 New Lotus Society Chair
- 23 Transplanting a Giant
- 23 Lotusland Garden Shop

ANNUAL MEETING

New Board Officers Elected

Our Annual Meeting for Members and key stakeholders was held in March. The event provided attendees with an overview of the Garden's past, present and future and served as the official beginning of term service of four new trustees and a new slate of board officers.

Recognitions and gifts were given to two trustees leaving the board, Mimi Michaelis and Dorothy Gardner, as well as immediate past president, Lesley Cunningham, who will continue service on the board in a traditional trustee capacity.

Board officers in 2023 include President David Jones, Vice President Mari Mitchel, Treasurer Stephen Schaible, and Secretary Crystal Wyatt.

"I am delighted to welcome this distinguished group of individuals and look forward to serving with them in the coming years. We have diligently worked to ensure we have a board that reflects a wide diversity of expertise that will guide Lotusland into its next decade of service and a renewed period of growth." — David Jones, Board President



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: David Jones welcomes the crowd and presents Lesley Cunningham with her board president and service recognition for her exceptional leadership from 2019-2022. 2023 Lotusland Board of Trustees.



ABOVE: John La Puma, M.D. addresses the audience at the Lotusland Annual Meeting in March 2023.

ENGAGING THE SENSES

The Healing Power of Nature

By John La Puma, M.D.

NATURE HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN to have a calming and restorative effect on the human body and mind. Gardens, in particular, have been proven to have numerous personal medical and mental health benefits. From reducing risk for dementia and stroke to improving focus, clarity and fitness, spending time in a garden can be powerful and energizing medicine.

This year, I was honored to give the keynote address at the Lotusland Annual Meeting to discuss how gardens, whether tending to one or simply being in one, can improve our health, as well as the health of the planet. As a board-certified internist and professionally trained chef, it's my privilege and passion to introduce or reintroduce people to these concepts and easy, fun ways to implement them every day.

During my keynote, I passed out the bifoliolate leaves of a Makrut (aka Kaffir) lime tree, which bears a fragrant, powerful small citrus fruit native to tropical Southeast Asia. Both the leaves and the fruit are used medicinally and

in cuisine. The tree is also (conveniently enough) found in areas of California, including Lotusland, and my own small regenerative Santa Barbara organic farm.

Some of the most impressive properties of Makrut lime leaves are their ability to reduce stress and anxiety. They also have anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties, making them a powerful and aromatherapeutic aid in digestive, wound healing and even scalp conditions. The essential oil extracted from the leaves has also been shown to have strong antimicrobial effects, fighting staph aureus, among other bacteria.

So how do you access these healing properties? Through your senses. You experience the garden and nature itself with your senses more than your intellect. We too often neglect our senses and ourselves, in favor of notifications and to-do lists.

Members of the Lotusland audience loved this new, renewed emphasis on touch, sight, hearing, taste, and smell in the Makrut lime leaf and senses

demonstration, which was brought home when I asked the audience to crush the exotic leaves into their palms and inhale. A refreshing, bright, citrusy, spicy scent filled the air, followed by gasps of surprise and excitement.



TOP: Trustee Emerita Dorothy Gardner, Rebecca Anderson, Executive Director, John La Puma, M.D.

BOTTOM: Makrut leaves being distributed to audience for demonstration by John La Puma, M.D.

Nature's power to change our mood and our minds is the stuff of poetry, but like nature itself, it's not remote or distant. It's the breeze in your curtains, the arugula in your salad, the mint plant on your windowsill, the anthurium on your kitchen table. Each of these natural touchstones can calm the mind, which is a phrase known well by Members and visitors fortunate enough to attend Lotusland regularly.

Beyond the physical benefits of walking through Lotusland, the Garden has a spiritual quality that can help individuals find meaning and purpose. The peaceful setting provides a space for contemplation and reflection, and the Garden's aesthetic design can inspire creativity and imagination. Studies have shown that exposure to and activity in nature, especially in biodiverse, tranquil spaces like Lotusland, can help improve mental health, boost the immune



TOP LEFT: Trustee Ashley Adelson enjoys Makrut lime scent. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Trustee Laura Bridley and Carolyn Williams pose for a photo. **RIGHT:** Trustee Caroline Thompson and Steve Thompson entering the Theater Garden.



“Lotusland, with its beautiful scenery and peaceful atmosphere, is the perfect place to experience nature and heal from the inside.”

system, and decrease symptoms of depression and anxiety.

Human well-being depends on the well-being of the earth, including its living and nonliving systems. That's a really different idea than we have had about the earth and our relationship to it. Our own personal, medical and mental health depends in part on how healthy nature is. There is always room for improvement on both ends!

Innovative nature-based health-related programming is being added to Lotusland's new offerings for Members and visitors to the Garden over the coming months. The Garden hopes to show the fun and creativity of interacting with nature. Some of that new programming, specifically the new *Walk for Well-being* programming, has allowed

me the opportunity to highlight some of the most healing aspects of the Garden for Members and guests. The *Walk for Well-being* guidebook, in particular, aims to bring attention to ways visitors may use their senses intentionally and delightfully to help them gain some of the health benefits of walking through the Garden.

Lotusland is much more than just a garden and Makrut lime trees are much more than just leaves and fruit. Both are examples of the healing power of nature; both serve as powerful, aromatic, delicious reminders of the many ways in which the natural world can engage our physical, mental, and emotional well-being. So why not start your healing journey in your own garden, or plan a visit to Lotusland, or both? See for yourself the transformative power of nature.

ABOUT JOHN LA PUMA

John La Puma, M.D., is a board-certified internist, a professionally trained chef, and the *New York Times* best-selling author of seven books. He co-founded the popular brand ChefMD® and is considered the founder of culinary medicine, now taught in 70% of U.S. medical schools and worldwide. With Leeza Gibbons and Joan Lunden, Dr. La Puma co-hosted the national cable weekly series “Health Corner” for Lifetime TV for five years. He currently stewards a regenerative certified organic farm in Santa Barbara, and helps visitors and viewers connect with gardens, nature and good food as a way of preventing and treating medical problems, and creating more joy in their lives. He's online at drjohnlapuma.com and [@johnlapuma](https://www.instagram.com/johnlapuma).

Horticultural Happenings

COMPLETING THE LOTUS POND RENOVATION

By Holly Huff

THIS APRIL, the Garden Staff completed planting for the lotus pond renovation project. The winter months kept the crew busy with storm cleanup, but we were anxious to revisit this much anticipated project. November and December of 2022 were spent draining the pond, dividing and collecting rhizomes, and de-mucking the pond. Since replanting was not scheduled until spring, we took the opportunity to try multiple storage methods for the plant material over winter.

Diversifying the storage of the plant material proved to be a great benefit and an invaluable learning experience. The three primary methods were placing rhizomes in pots within the flanking water lily pond, packing them in damp sphagnum moss in a cool dark space, and planting directly in an aquatic plant tub filled with soil. By far, the most successful rhizomes came from the third approach. There was also a noticeable difference in vigor in this material. The tub was shallow and received more radiant heat and sunlight, leading to considerable growth, despite the prolonged winter temperatures.

The potted rhizomes experienced more of a predictable dormancy. In the water lily pond, water temperatures were often in the low 50's (°F) and it was frequently shaded. Lotus generally remain dormant over the colder winter months, relying on stored energy from their tubers to send out new shoots in the spring, when temperatures increase. Interestingly, our greatest losses were due to herbivory and damage caused by ducks.

Rhizomes packed in the damp sphagnum moss were monitored periodically but were generally left undisturbed. This was an excellent way to maintain moisture levels outside of the garden environment. Ours were stored for close to six months! For future projects we might consider limiting the amount of time rhizomes remain out of soil, to prevent opportunities for mildew and rot.

We were fortunate to enter spring with an abundance of rhizomes to replant. With winter rains subsiding, the pond was drained to continue preparations. The layout was opened up by removal of old plastic barriers, soil was leveled, and the maintenance path was repaired. Rhizomes were spaced out and planted just below the soil. To protect and help weigh them down, we placed recycled terracotta roof tiles on top of each planting. Fortunately, even with the disturbance of the project, there are still rhizomes in lower depths of the soil that avoided damage. It is possible that we may see some growth from these as the new plantings establish.

With the pond planted and refilled, we are excited to monitor the progress over the next year or two. It will take time for the renovated lotus to establish and spread, but the Water Garden will still have beautiful displays of water lilies and Victoria, and the lotus in the Japanese Garden pond are well-established. We look forward to seeing you in the Garden!



TOP: Gardeners Jacob Passantino, Holly Huff, and Jorge Mendieta holding lotus rhizomes ready to be planted.

CENTER LEFT: A tub full of lotus rhizomes ready to be replanted. **CENTER RIGHT:** Lotus rhizomes planted and ready for water. **BOTTOM:** The lotus pond filled and complete.

Special thanks to Wendy and Eric Schmidt for their support of this important restoration project.



Autumn Starburst Encore Azalea from Southern Living



The newly introduced Cordyline 'Charlie Boy'

COLLECTIONS NEWS

Lotusland Visits the California Spring Trails

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

THE CALIFORNIA SPRING TRIALS (CAST) are an important opportunity for plant breeders from far and near to show off the latest and greatest examples of their plant breeding prowess. A marathon of five days in nine different locations across central and southern California, CAST is represented by almost 40 plant breeders from around the world. Locally, CAST is hosted by PlantHaven International, which held the event this year at the Santa Barbara Polo and Racquet Club from March 29 to April 2, with a special VIP viewing on March 28 with invitations to Lotusland staff. Every year we are eager to witness the new innovations in the plant breeding world.

PlantHaven is an independent agency that assists plant breeders worldwide to bring their new plant varieties to market. Through careful guidance, PlantHaven offers advice and service in market research, performance trials, and patent protection to the breeders. Over the years, Lotusland and PlantHaven have developed a close relationship, and a number of new plant introductions have been trialed here in the garden. In addition, Robert Bett of PlantHaven serves on Lotusland's Exceptional Plants Auction committee and often donates first offerings of the hottest new plants for a lucky winning bidder.



Following the culmination of this year's CAST, Lotusland received plants that were generously donated by the teams at the Sunset and Southern Living Plant Collections, which are supported by their respective magazines and represented by PlantHaven. Numerous Lotusland gardens benefited this year, from azaleas and newly introduced cultivars of *Berberis* in the Japanese Garden, to an ornamental yet edible pineapple in the lower bromeliad garden (left) and two plants of a flashy new *Cordyline* flanking the Neptune fountain.

LOTUSLAND Curator Leads the Cactus Community Club



ANNA BOWER, Lotusland's Assistant Curator of Living Collections, is the newly elected president of the Santa Barbara Cactus and Succulent Society (SBCSS). Her previous roles with the club include newsletter editor and vice president. SBCSS was established in 1976 and is an affiliate member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA).

Historically, Lotusland staff have been closely involved with SBCSS, serving on their board, donating plant material, creating succulent displays at their shows and sales, and providing propagations for their annual "Grow-Off," a horticultural contest between members of the club.

SBCSS has given back to Lotusland as well, and in 2013 funded a renovation of the Succulent Garden, donating new plants to complement the existing landscape. Club members widened the pathway, making it ADA accessible, and thinned overgrown succulent groundcovers.

We congratulate Anna in her role as president and look forward to hearing a report from the CSSA Biennial Convention this July where Anna will represent both SBCSS and Lotusland.

Your Legacy, Our Future

LIFE INSURANCE can be a useful tool for charitable planning, allowing you to leave a lasting legacy while also providing financial support to a cause you care about. Plus, you can enjoy current income and estate tax deductions! Here are some ways to use life insurance for charitable planning:

A. Naming a charity as a beneficiary:

You can name a charity as a beneficiary of your existing life insurance policy. This means that when you pass away, the death benefit will be paid directly to the charity. There is no current income tax deduction because you still own the policy and have the right to change the beneficiary in the future.

B. Naming a charity as owner and beneficiary:

You can name a charity as the owner and beneficiary of your existing life insurance policy. The charity will receive the death benefit when you pass away. Because the charity is the owner also, you receive an income tax deduction for the value of the policy at the time of the gift. The death benefit will also be out of your estate for Federal estate tax purposes. You give up the right to change the beneficiary in the future.

C. Purchase a new life insurance policy naming the charity the owner and beneficiary:

This allows you to buy a new policy and commit the death benefit to the charity when you pass away. The premiums paid each year (by you) will be income tax deductible each year as a charitable gift. If you are not insurable, you can insure a child or another person. At death, the charity receives the proceeds.

D. Using life insurance to replace a charitable gift:

If you plan to make a significant gift to a charity but are concerned about the impact it will have on your estate for your heirs, you can use life insurance to replace the gift. By purchasing a life insurance policy, you can ensure that your heirs receive the full value of your estate while still providing a significant gift to a charity.

These are just a few ways to use life insurance for charitable planning. It's important to consult with a financial planner or estate planning attorney to determine the best strategy for your individual circumstances. Life insurance is an excellent way to obtain maximum leverage on your dollars to charity.

For more information, contact Patricia Sadeghian, Director of Development, at 805.969.3767 ext 125.



NATURE AND YOUR HEALTH

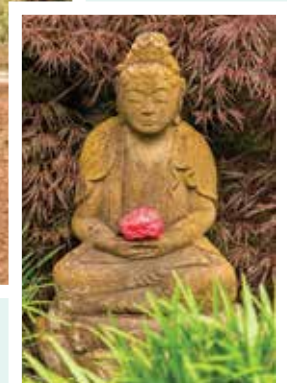
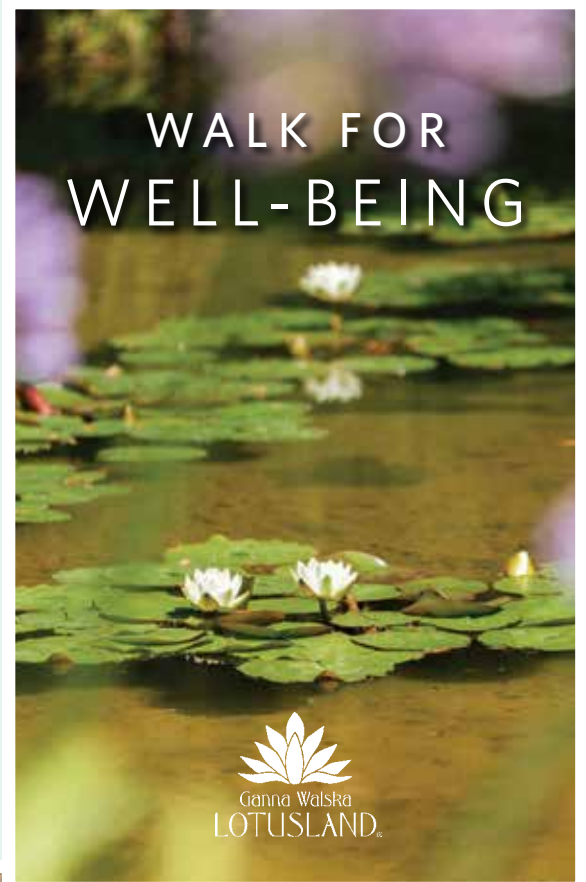
Lotusland Launches two new Well-Being Walking Guides

SPENDING TIME IN NATURE is linked to both cognitive benefits and improvements in mood, mental health and emotional well-being. Walking is a convenient, accessible, and free way to improve your health, reduce stress, and make connections with the community and nature. Lotusland has designed two new *Walk for Well-Being* guides, which encourage participants to reflect and experience more fully the calming, restorative powers of nature. The Garden serves as a peaceful setting for people to explore their relationship with nature and with themselves. The *Walk for Well-Being* guidebooks were designed as a resource for individuals and families.

Family guide contributors included Kind Mind leaders Vivian Valentin with input based on her neuroscience expertise and experience as a yoga and mindfulness instructor to children and psychotherapist Harrison Heyl, who shared his expertise in school-based mindfulness trainings he has have created and implemented to develop the guide's content.

The Adult *Walk for Well-Being* guide was created with the help of John La Puma, M.D., the leading physician voice for culinary medicine and nature. An internationally recognized expert in nutrition, well-being and wellness, his EcoMedicine programs encourage walking and provide actionable tips you can start using today to expand your wellness and self-care, improve your immune system, reduce inflammation and feed your microbiota. As you do, your power to improve the planet's health develops, expands and helps others.

Lotusland Well-Being Guides are made possible with a generous contribution by Belle Hahn and the support and involvement of volunteer and docent, Shannon Nicholson, who shares an educational background in Integrative Health and Wellness.



LOTUSLAND CELEBRATES

WHERE THE WILD THINGS GROW

LOTUSLAND IS THRILLED to invite you to celebrate our **30th Anniversary at Lotusland Celebrates: Where the Wild Things Grow!** This popular summer gala is nearly sold out, so respond now to ensure your place for this highly anticipated event!

On **Saturday, July 22, 2023**, join our chairs and committee for an unforgettable experience as we explore our botanical nirvana and marvel at the rare and exotic plants that call it home. Sip herb-infused cocktails as you wander through the garden, encountering surprises at every turn. Later, gather on the Great Lawn for curated cocktails and an impressive array of amazing auction items (available from July 12 at Lotusland.org) before dining al fresco amongst the agaves with outstanding wine selections by Antica Terra and dinner by Duo. Bid to win an assortment of experiences and treasures during a lively auction — all while supporting the Garden's biodiverse ecosystems and habitats.

Let the wild rumpus begin!

Lotusland Celebrates: Where the Wild Things Grow is graciously sponsored and underwritten by:

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Cosmic Collage
by Lori Menna

Presenting Sponsor Nora McNeely-Hurley and Michael Hurley,
in memory of Marjorie Reeds-McNeely


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catering & events

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LIFESTYLE EVENT RENTALS
201-444-1122

LOTUSLAND CELEBRATES: WHERE THE WILD THINGS GROW will honor our collections of rare and endangered plants, our conservation and horticulture programs, and the fantastical garden design for which Lotusland is known around the world. **For information on table sponsorship and underwriting opportunities for Where the Wild Things Grow, contact Courtney Tentler at ctentler@lotusland.org**

LIMITED QUANTITY OF INDIVIDUAL TICKETS: \$1,000

LIVE AUCTION

Our spirited live auction on July 22 features these spectacular lots:

- "The Teenage Dream" VIP Las Vegas Experience with **Katy Perry**
- A one-of-a-kind pendant necklace from **Silverhorn Jewelers** in Montecito
- 5-nights in a one-bedroom villa at **Nihi Sumba Luxury Resort in Indonesia**
- Studio tour and workshop with artist **Lynda Weinman** at LyndaLABS
- Fantasy gardens and stay at **Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, a Belmond Hotel in Oxfordshire, England**
- A custom garden structure created by architecture firm **Shubin Donaldson**

Visit Lotusland.org/celebrates to learn more and discover opportunities to place a bid in advance of the event.

ONLINE AUCTION

July 12 – July 23

Open to *Where the Wild Things Grow* guests as well as supporters from anywhere in the world, the online auction includes amazing collectibles, artwork, not-to-be-missed experiences and travel opportunities and other treasures inspired by the garden.

Featured in our Online Auction and on display in person at Lotusland Celebrates are GROW WILD! Digital Botany Table Jewelry created by Lynda Weinman of LyndaLABS. Lynda Weinman's Digital Botany exhibit combines technology and art as an alternative to traditional floral decorations. The idea, sparked by Weinman's first set of LEGO® flowers, involves using digital design and 3D printing to create enduring, artistic, pesticide-free, sustainable flowers. Beyond its futuristic visual appeal, the series emphasizes the role of art in promoting environmental awareness.

Go online, bid, repeat!

2023 LOTUSLAND CELEBRATES EVENT COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRS

Ashley Adelson
Merryl Brown
Joseph Marek
Caroline Thompson

GARDEN AMBASSADORS

Belle Hahn
Eric Nagelmann
Mary Ta

COMMITTEE

Jeanne Anderson
Oz Arconian
Mary Lou Ardohain
Leslie Cane Schneiderman
Lynn Cunningham Brown
Winnie Dunbar
Kate Faust
Jennie Grube
Jen Huang Bogan
Kim Hunter
Lauren King
Paulo Lima
Analise Maggio
Marni Margerum
Suzanne Mathews
Mimi Michaelis
Mandana Mir
Natalie Noone Pressly
Setenay Osman
Connie Pearcy
Val Rice
Jackie Schaffer
Maria Schmidt
Amy Shamus
Nati Smith
Loria Stern
Jill Taylor
Cindi Weinert
Lisa Bjornson Wolf
Ashley Woods Hollister
Yasmine Zodeh

EMCEE

August Bernstein, Head of the
Raymond Blanc Garden School
at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons

AUCTIONEER

Geoff Green





LOTUSLAND X SULLIVAN GOSS: AN AMERICAN GALLERY

Where the Wild Things Grow: an Art Exhibition & Sale

DETOUR TO SANTA BARBARA'S DOWNTOWN arts district this summer for a visit to Sullivan Goss as we collaborate to present Where the Wild Things Grow art exhibition and sale, curated by Susan Bush and Lauren Wilson.

Sullivan Goss is an American Gallery which, over the past three decades, has attracted a huge following of art patrons and collectors. Established in 1984 with a goal to help build private and public collections of important American art. Sullivan Goss values supporting and engaging the local community, and showcases many 19th-21st century artists while supporting a number of local nonprofits. The Gallery specializes in art representing a wide variety of distinctive contributors, and opened up their rolodex for Lotusland with a special invitation to artists to create in the gardens of Lotusland.

An esteemed list of 29 artists will display work inspired by the Where the Wild Things Grow theme and Lotusland's dramatic display of rare and unusual plants. This spring, each artist received a special invitation to spend time in the Garden to draw inspiration from the living collection and fantastical garden design. A portion of art sales benefit Lotusland and enable vital plant conservation, sustainable horticulture, a variety of educational and public programs for the community, and so much more.

Learn more, purchase, or sign up to receive a preview of the Where the Wild Things Grow works of art, at sullivangoss.com

PATRON PARTY*

Thursday, July 20, 2023 | 5:00-7:00 PM

Sullivan Goss Gallery

11 E Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara

**by invitation with Lotusland Celebrates Sponsorship*



Sullivan Goss
AN AMERICAN GALLERY

Participating Artists

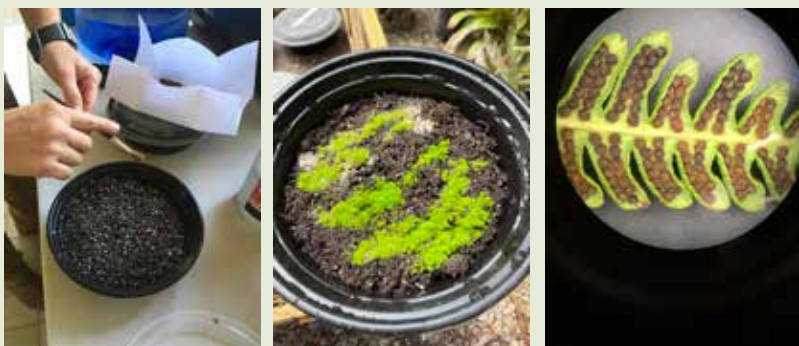
Meredith Brooks Abbott
Whitney Brooks Abbott
Mehera Blum
Cara Bonewitz
Ken Bortolazzo
Phoebe Brunner
Erika Carter
Patricia Chidlaw
Rick Garcia
Robin Gowen
Inga Guzyte
Ruth Ellen Hoag
Nathan Huff
Cynthia James
Onno Kok
Emilie Lee
Paulo Lima
John Nava
Amber O'Neill
R. Nelson Parrish
Angela Perko
Hank Pitcher
Maria Rendon
Joan Rosenberg-Dent
Blakeney Sanford
Kerrie Smith
Sarah Vedder
Lynda Weinman
Monica Wiesblott



ABOVE: Robin Gowen, *Three Cranes at Lotusland*, 2023.
16 x 24 inches. Oil on board.

WISH LIST

Advance Lotusland's Mission



Fern Propagation Equipment • \$1,200

Lotusland is an affiliate garden with the Hardy Fern Foundation and participates in their annual Spore Exchange. Ferns can be tricky to propagate from spore and require stable temperatures and supplemental lighting. Our nursery staff are seeking funding to purchase equipment to improve our propagation setup, including a 3-tiered cart with adjustable LED lighting and programmable timer. This will allow us to enhance our already extensive fern collection of 150 taxa with rare and difficult-to-propagate ferns.

Portable Event Sound System with Microphones and Protective Case • \$3,500



Help us spread the word! The Garden needs a high-quality portable speaker sound system. Lotusland uses this equipment during educational lectures, discussion panels, member presentations, staff meetings, and private events. A portable unit with easy to use microphones will go a long way and help us save on AV rental costs year after year.

Sunflower Sculpture Repair • \$4,600

Lotusland's succulent garden exhibits a variety of caudiciform and rosette type species. Nestled within the thriving living succulent collection, the



Garden displays a one-of-a-kind steel sunflower sculpture, created by the late artist Greg Padgett. This beautiful piece was gifted to Madame Ganna Walska in the late 1970's, and recently needed significant repair and restoration. Lotusland worked with ironwork experts to rebuild the sculpture to ensure it may be enjoyed in the Garden for many years to come. Your support will underwrite the cost to preserve this significant, historic piece.

We are gratefully accepting donations of any size to support these projects.
TO DONATE, please call, 805.969.3767, ext. 125.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Wednesdays, July 5, August 16, September 13, October 11 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Wellbeing Wednesdays

SKILLED PROFESSIONS will lead a series of Wellbeing Wednesday, special sessions providing regular doses of nature's healing, resilience, and a sense of wholeness. Each class consists of a 45-minute guided activity followed by a 45-minute walk in the Garden. You will be more whole and aligned after visiting the Garden with a new attention and awareness.

July 5 **Guided Lotus Meditation with Dina Saalisi**
August 16 **Tai Chi with Master Chao Pang**
September 13 **Yoga with Kristen Frascella**
October 11 **Forest Bathing with Elena Rios**

Admission is \$40 per class for Members and \$75 per class for Non-Members. Space is limited and reservations are required. View more information and reserve online at Lotusland.org/events.

Wellbeing Wednesdays are presented in association with series sponsor Belle Hahn.

PHOTO: Lisa Romerin

Fridays, August 25, November 3

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Members' Garden Golden Hour

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

Admission is complimentary for Garden Lover Circle Members, \$50 for General Level Members, and \$75 for Member's Guests. Space is limited and reservations are required. View more information and reserve online at Lotusland.org/events.



Friday, August 11 • 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Eat Your Flowers

JOIN US for a floral celebration in the Garden as you enjoy botanically inspired refreshments and learn creative uses for the plants and flowers all around us. Loria Stern, baker, botanist, artist, and author of *Eat Your Flowers* will speak about her blooming processes of pressing, baking, and cooking with flowers from her garden. Mary Gonzalez, owner of Sweet Mountain Top, will be leading a wild-flower bouquet workshop using flowers from her Carpinteria farm. Bring the ideas home as you create your own sachet of edible wildflower seeds to grow in your backyard from our Wildflower Seed Buffet.

Members \$175, Non-Members \$225. *Eat Your Flowers* cookbook included in the ticket price. Space is limited and reservations are required. View more information and reserve online at Lotusland.org/events.



Wednesday, August 16 • 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Family Meditation and Mindfulness

EASE ECO-ANXIETY with mindful nature immersion that engages all seven senses as Vivian Valentin, PhD of Kind Mind will lead families as they connect with others and practice mindful communication, movement and body awareness, meditation, visualization, and nature-connection. Vivian will inspire awe experiences in nature, and teach about our interdependence with nature and each other.

Members \$40 Adults, \$25 Children. Non-Members \$75 Adults, \$35 Children.

Recommended for children ages 8-12. Space is limited and reservations are required.

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

Presented in partnership with Belle Hahn, Well-Being Series sponsor.



Saturday, September 9

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sustainability

Symposium Part II

**Solutions for a Cleaner,
Greener Planet**

JOIN FRIENDS OF LOTUSLAND as we continue the conversation in our second Sustainability Symposium, an afternoon of education and connections at a former lemon packing warehouse in Santa Paula.

All tickets are \$10. Content is relevant and appropriate for high school students and above. View more information and reserve online at Lotusland.org/events.

SAVE THE DATES

for Lotusland's fall
fundraising events

**Saturday, October 7
Exceptional Plants Auction**

**Saturday, October 21
Madame's Millinery Masterpieces:
Hats Throughout History**

Saturday September 16 • 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

LotusFest: Wine and Beer Festival

AN INTIMATE CELEBRATION OF the Central Coast's best wineries, breweries and culinary delights while spending an early fall afternoon in the beautiful gardens of Lotusland. Mix and mingle with friends while you enjoy live music on the Great Lawn — a perfect pairing!

Members \$150, Non-Members \$185, Patron \$300 (includes early access and VIP parking). Designated driver discounts available. Ages 21+ only. Space is limited and reservations are required. For more information and to reserve tickets online, visit Lotusland.org/events.





GROWING HISTORY Lotusland Lemon Arbor Replica

GANNA WALSKA INHERITED the Lotusland orchard planted by the Gavit family and kept adding to it in her signature collector's approach. Montecito was historically covered in citrus orchards through the years and since its addition in the 1920s, the Lotusland Lemon Arbor boasted trailing branches, subtle scents and cheerful beauty. The Arbor has become a favorite feature of the garden by visitors from across the globe. Many people and organizations have installed similar arbors paying homage to Lotusland in their own gardens. The San Ysidro Ranch (formerly the San Ysidro Citrus Ranch) has honored Lotusland by installing a replica Lemon Arbor (shown here), artfully crafted to exactly emulate Lotusland's iconic design. Today, Lotusland's Citrus Orchard features oranges, lemons, limes, kumquats, grapefruits and guava trees.



EXPLORING SOLUTIONS PAST Delegation of Maya Forest Gardeners Visit Lotusland to Exchange Sustainable Horticulture Ideas

LOTUSLAND WAS HONORED to host a delegation of Mayan forest farmers and conservationists for a day in the garden in January 2023. The plan to bring a Belize delegation was organized by Dr. Anabel Ford, an archaeologist and professor at UCSB, specializing in the study of Mesoamerica, with a focus on the lowland Maya of Belize and Guatemala. She is recognized for her discovery of the ancient Maya city of El Pilar. The delegation's visit to Santa Barbara, an initiative of Exploring Solutions Past, highlighted the importance of the principles of Maya Forest Gardening and concluded with Master Gardener Narciso Torres receiving the highest award the University of California can bestow: the Chancellor's Medal. According to Professor Ford, "These heroes, like Narciso, promote principles critical to sustainability and resilience: building soil fertility, reducing erosion, conserving water and increasing biodiversity."

The day at Lotusland was an incredible exchange of ideas and philosophies focused on sustainable principles and the sharing of mutual awe and appreciation of nature with these amazing environmental crusaders.

INCLUSIVE ACCESS

Museums for All

GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND is proud to be among two dozen Central Coast area museums and attractions participating in Museums for All. This program enables those receiving food assistance (SNAP benefits) to gain free or reduced admission to more than 1,000 museums across the country.

On a local level, partner organizations are working to reach new audiences and promote inclusivity with program outreach to qualified visitors.

Museums for All program guests are able to take advantage of \$4 admission passes. This is just one of the many ways the Garden gives back to the community each year.

For more information on participating locations across the region, visit www.museums4all.org

To make a reservation to visit Lotusland using the Museums for All pricing, call 805.969.9990.



STORM REPORT

Weathering the Storms: With Help from Our Community

IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, Lotusland experienced unexpected damage from intense winter storms. Despite our continuous investments in the care, maintenance, and evaluation of our trees, the intense soil saturation from the relentless rains took a significant toll. Sadly, the Garden lost more than ten large oaks, eucalyptus, palms, ferns, and cacti throughout the gardens, and sustained damage to our nursery, storage sheds and the iconic pink perimeter wall.

Our generous Members and supporters responded to our call in March, helping to defray the unexpected costs associated with repairing the damage. With a generous lead gift from Adele and Loi Nguyen, our horticulture staff were supported as they devoted hours and resources toward rebuilding. Debris has been cleared and trees have been removed so that Lotusland remained safe and open for visitors and the pink wall damage continues to be repaired.

On behalf of the staff, Board of Trustees, and volunteers, thank you to our special community of supporters*. We appreciate you!

*For a full list of supporters to our storm appeal, please see page 20.

If you wish to learn more about supporting our continuing storm damage recovery, please contact Patricia Sadeghian, Director of Development at psadeghian@lotusland.org or 805.324.8426.



WELCOME New Staff



ANGELA CANFIELD,
Reservations Associate

Angela Canfield joined Lotusland in January 2023 as Reservations Associate. She has called Santa Barbara home for over two decades. After earning her undergraduate degree from UCSB and studying art and design in Florence, Italy, and through UCLA extension, she enjoyed a career in interior design before taking time off to raise three beautiful daughters. For the past 15 years, Angela has actively contributed to her community through various volunteer and nonprofit work and school programming, and she is passionate about bringing vibrant creative arts programs and educational opportunities to local students. Angela developed her deep love of the natural world growing up in a small town in the Eastern Sierra. The high desert mountains, lakes, and wildlife instilled in Angela a belief in nature's restorative power and has taught her how it can influence art and education. She is thrilled to join the Lotusland team.



EDWIN RODRIGUEZ JR., Marketing and
Communications Manager

Edwin Rodriguez Jr. joined Lotusland in February 2023 as the Marketing and Communications Manager. Originally from Western New York, Edwin earned an Associate of Communication, a Bachelor of Public Relations and Marketing, and has been working with nonprofits for the better part of 15 years, which includes time spent as an adjunct communications professor. Before relocating to the West Coast, Edwin served as the Director of Public Relations and Marketing for a nonprofit continuum of care community for seniors, helping steer the organization's internal and external communications through the COVID-19 crisis. He is passionate about volunteering in his community, loves tourism, introducing people to new foods and experiences, and is an avid Jeep enthusiast and Raider fan. He and his pets reside in Santa Barbara.



MICHAELA ACKERMAN,
Visitor Services Associate

Michaela Ackerman joined Lotusland in February 2023 as a Visitor Services Associate. After working at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden for eight years, she joined the Santa Barbara Museum of Art as a Merchandise Associate. Michaela loves traveling, cooking, skiing, and exotic orchids. She loves to spend time with her family and thoroughly enjoys helping people, which is why she loves her position at Lotusland. Her day-to-day tasks include Visitor Services, Reception, and Garden Shop Merchandising.

A REWARDING LEGACY OF SERVICE

Rose Thomas, Research Associate Retires



AFTER 13 YEARS OF SERVICE, Rose Thomas retired this spring. Her accomplishments include chronicling and documenting Lotusland's extensive photographs and correspondence, and serving as the primary interpreter of the archives. In addition to her work researching the Gardens, Rose served as a spokesperson for Lotusland and shared her knowledge as a guest lecturer for many Santa Barbara community arts and cultural institutions.



Rose curated a number of Lotusland exhibitions, including *Portraits of an Era* and *Building a Botanical Nirvana*. She also frequently presented to Members and guests during Focus Tours, including her most recent, in 2022, "Treasures from the Archives."

Prior to her association with Lotusland, Rose, for many years, taught a course on Santa Barbara architecture at Santa Barbara City College's School of Extended Learning, and she led numerous tours of area museums, galleries, and historic homes and gardens. She joined the Lotusland staff in 2010 and served as the Research Associate, after first volunteering and becoming enamored with the estate's rich history and the captivating life of Ganna Walska.



*"My work at Lotusland remains the most gratifying of my career. I loved every minute spent caring for the collection, mounting exhibitions, giving presentations to the community, docents, and private groups. Perhaps my most rewarding project was working on the book *Ganna Walska: Portraits of an Era*, with Madame Walska's niece, Hania Tallmadge. Other high points included research projects and helping with various publications, such as the most recent Lotusland coffee table book. After a visit to Paris, my final endeavor was envisioning and facilitating a forthcoming publication on the life of Madame Ganna Walska in collaboration with the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, which she owned for fifty years.*

I will miss my friends at Lotusland and the beauty and tranquility of the garden, but I will be forever grateful for the opportunities and experiences I enjoyed." — Rose Thomas

LOTUSLAND GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES DONORS

January, February, March, and April 2023

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MEMBERS

Shop and Save

New Merchants Join Members Shop and Save Program!

Garden Members receive discounts with local nurseries, garden specialty shops, and more. The generosity of these community partners is very much appreciated and we encourage you to consider shopping with them! In order to receive a discount, it is very important for you to ask for your discount prior to the cashier ringing up your order. Please be prepared to show your current membership card along with photo ID.

Please consider visiting our new nursery and retail partners when you're shopping for new plants or landscaping supplies:

Aloes in Wonderland Nursery and Botanic Garden

10%

114 Conejo Rd. Santa Barbara, CA 93103 | 805.705.3397

*Discount applicable on plants only. Visiting is by appointment only at
aloesinwonderland.com*

Green Thumb Nursery, Ventura

10%

1899 S. Victoria Ave. Ventura, CA 93003 | 805.642.8517

*Discount not applicable on power tools. Must show Lotusland Membership ID
at checkout. Ventura location only.*

Visit the Become a Member tab at the top of our website to view 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.



SUSTAINABILITY SYMPOSIUM

Solutions for a Cleaner, Greener Planet



In April, Lotusland partnered with acclaimed landscape designer Eric Nagelmann to co-host an environmental sustainability event for industry professionals and the greater gardening community. The event aimed to identify conservation risks and opportunities facing local

communities as well as create a forum for dialogue with industry professionals on best horticulture practices.

Two keynote presenters along with a panel discussion were featured throughout the afternoon, all of which were moderated by psychologist, educator and environmental activist, Stacy Pulice.

Over 80 people attended the event that was held at a former lemon packing warehouse in Santa Paula owned by Xavier Maignan of the Collector Car Vault.

Landscape designer and horticulture and fire ecology specialist, Elisa Read, and Executive Chairman of Reiter Affiliated Companies and Driscoll's Berries, Garland Reiter Sr., presented keynote lectures to kick off the symposium. Later in the afternoon, a three-person panel discussion featured botanical specialist, Vishaal Khanna, agriculture and sustainability consultant, Thetis Sammons, and Vice President with Renewable Resources Group, Kel Mitchel.

Those in attendance were able to ask questions for the panelists and have their questions and concerns about how to apply best horticulture practices to their own footprint on the planet.

The event was the first of a two-part series, the second being held on September 9 and will cover different topics with different speakers all surrounding sustainability.

Register for Sustainability Symposium Part 2 by visiting lotusland.org. Tickets for the event are \$10.



WELCOME

New Lotus Society Chair, Mimi Michaelis

Mimi Michaelis is a Trustee Emerita and Honorary Council Member

"Being a member of the Lotus Society brings me great satisfaction knowing that I am able to help sustain the Garden for the future. In my Lotus Society leadership, I look forward to introducing new members to our Garden and its mission, and helping long-time Lotus Society membership grow and thrive just as Lotusland has for the past 30 years." — Mimi Michaelis

Become a Member of the Lotus Society to preserve a legacy of beauty and serenity

A significant endowment is required to meet the rising expense of maintaining Madame Walska's rare plant collections and to continue valuable community programs promoting sustainable gardening, conservation, and horticultural research.

Upcoming Special Event for Lotus Society Members

Tuesday, September 12

Victoria Kastner: Lecture & Book Signing

Author Victoria Kastner shares thoughts and insights on her latest book, *Julia Morgan: An Intimate Biography of the Trailblazing Architect*. This is a special opportunity to hear Victoria in Santa Barbara for a dynamic lecture on Julia Morgan's life and work.

**For more information please contact Patricia Sadeghian
805.969.3767 x125**

A THORNY ISSUE

Transplanting a Giant

In the final days of our extremely wet winter, the Lotusland grounds staff noticed a very large cactus starting to lean with soil cracking around the base. Without any options to stabilize the plant, the 80+ year old specimen of *Cereus*, a genus of columnar cacti from South America, toppled over later that same night. The plant was still in good health, but the saturated soil was no longer able to support its immense weight. Planning began immediately on how to save and transplant this stately specimen.

There was another *Cereus* directly across the Main Drive from the fallen cactus that was also in need of removal due to failing health. A plan was quickly developed to replace it with the giant cactus now laying on its side. Cacti are quite resilient plants and due to their succulent nature have a lot of stored energy to be able to weather such trauma. A majority of the branches on the plant were broken, damaged, or trimmed close to the undamaged main trunk. Upon inspection, the roots appeared quite healthy even though the majority of the large root ball was now sticking up in the air. Broken roots were also trimmed of any fractured or frayed tissue and treated.



Once the area dried out sufficiently after the winter and spring rains, Lotusland reached out to **Steve Hanson Landscapes** to help with the move. Generously agreeing to gift their time, Steve Hanson's crew moved the approximately 3,000 pound cactus to the planting bed on the west side of the Patio Pavilion. Although currently looking a little barren, with the healthy root system and warmer, longer days the giant cactus will start generating new branches this year and will soon look right at home in this prominent location.

LOTUSLAND GARDEN SHOP

A Special Place for Gifts

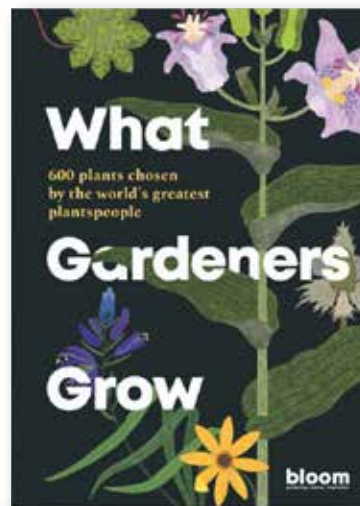
Unique gifts are available in Lotusland's Garden Shop and online at lotuslandshop.org. Members save 10% on all purchases.

What Gardeners Grow

A terrific new book is now available online and in our garden shop. *What Gardeners Grow* draws on the experience and passion of the world's most interesting and respected plants people to create a glossary of plants to inspire the everyday gardener.

Lotusland's Director of Conservation and Curator of Living Collections, Paul Mills, is one of 250 plants-people who have contributed their plant choices, each selecting one or more of their most treasured favorites.

Nurserymen, head gardeners, designers, edibles experts, biodynamic practitioners, Chelsea medal-winners, as well as horticulturalists like Piet Oudolf and Noel Kingsbury, Sarah Raven and Erin Benzakein, Joy Larkcom and Ron Finley, each present unique stories about their favorite plants. Contributors were chosen by Matthew Biggs, British gardener and broadcaster, to be included in the beautifully illustrated, 336-page book, which retails for \$35.





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Summer 2023

For more detailed information about upcoming events, please see page 16 or visit [Lotusland.org/events](https://lotusland.org/events).

Well-being Wednesday Series

Wednesdays, July 5, August 16, September 13, October 11

Member's Garden Golden Hour Tours & Tasting

Fridays, August 25, November 3

Summer Twilight Tours

Saturdays, July 8, July 15, August 26, September 2

Lotusland Celebrates: Where the Wild Things Grow
Saturday, July 22

Eat Your Flowers Reception & Book Signing
Friday, August 11

Family Meditation and Mindfulness

Wednesday, August 16

Sustainability Symposium Part II, Santa Paula
Saturday, September 9

LotusFest: Wine & Beer Festival
Saturday, September 16

Exceptional Plants Auction

Saturday, October 7

Madame's Millinery Masterpieces: Hats throughout History
Saturday, October 21

Lotusland Tour Schedule

We look forward to welcoming you to Lotusland! Lotusland is open for public visitation Wednesdays through Saturdays with a self-guided or docent-led tour by request. Visit lotusland.org/visit/ to check availability and reserve your space. Space is limited and advance reservations are required. We recommend making reservations one month in advance of your visit for best availability.

2023 Ticket Release Schedule

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

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

December - January Reservations

We are excited to open the garden on limited days this winter, during our regularly closed season.

Member's Pre-Release October 17 • Public Release October 31

Ticket release dates are subject to change. Additional information is available at www.lotusland.org/visit