

Ganna  
Walska



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2024

AN ENDURING COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

## A Greener Future for Lotusland's Sustainable Horticulture Program

COLLECTIONS NEWS

## Cycads, Ferns, and the Most Unusual Plant Specimen

PHOTO: Wool Carder Bee in the Orchard by Corey Welles



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

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David M. Jones, *President*  
Lesley Cunningham, *Immediate Past President*  
Mari Mitchel, *Vice-President*  
Stephen P. Schaible, *Treasurer*  
Crystal Wyatt, *Secretary*  
Ashley Adelson  
Jeanne Anderson  
Laura M. Bridley  
Merryl Brown  
Ron Caird  
Geoff Crane  
Susie Read Cronin  
Rachael Douglas  
Anthony Grumbine  
Joseph Marek  
Elizabeth Patterson  
Connie Flowers Pearcy  
Jeffrey F. Romano  
Mark Schmidt  
Wendy Schmidt  
Caroline Thompson  
Rick Vitelle  
Lisa Bjornson Wolf  
*Ex Officio*, Daniel Bifano

#### LIFETIME HONORARY TRUSTEES

Merryl Brown  
Robert J. Emmons  
Arthur R. Gaudi  
Kisa Heyer  
Connie Flowers Pearcy

#### DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Steven Timbrook, Ph.D.

#### STAFF

Rebecca Anderson  
*Executive Director*  
Fiona Brennen  
*Director of Finance*  
Tyler Diehl  
*Director of Gardens*  
Katherine Colin  
*Director of Marketing and Communications*  
Paul Mills  
*Director of Conservation and  
Curator of the Living Collections*  
Adam Flint  
*Director of Operations*  
Patricia Sadeghian  
*Director of Development*  
Courtney Tentler  
*Director of Administration*  
*Printed by Jano Graphics*

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Members,

As we enter our 2024 season at Lotusland, we are innovating and elevating the art of horticulture for our visitors and members' learning and delight. This is our perpetual drive, and this year we connect to our roots and launch a new Master Plan to guide the stewardship of the Garden for the future. Today, Lotusland builds on 30 years of



tradition as a public garden and focuses our energy and resources on sustainable environmental, operational, and financial practices to preserve the Garden and estate for generations to come.

Lotusland is known for its unique and renowned living collections with significant educational, biological, and cultural value. This year, with important capital improvement projects and endowment-building goals, we invest in the property's accessibility and preservation, as well as formalizing plans for the long-

term stewardship of our archives, Ganna Walska's artifacts, and Garden adornments. We must and will preserve them, so that Lotusland maintains its exceptional character and charm alongside our most important feature: our rare and exotic plant collections.

On behalf of all of us at Lotusland, thank you for your role in our extended family and for prioritizing Lotusland as a part of your life and our community. Whether you are a new Member or have been with us for three decades, we deeply appreciate the important part you play in helping the Garden grow.

Here's to a bright and beautiful 2024 together!

Rebecca Anderson  
Executive Director  
randerson@lotusland.org

#### MISSION

Lotusland's mission is to preserve and enhance the distinctive botanical gardens of Madame Ganna Walska. Lotusland educates and inspires visitors with its collections, sustainable horticulture practices, and plant conservation.



WINTER 2024

# Contents

- 2 Letter from the Executive Director
- 3 Ellen's Koi Come to Lotusland
- 4 A Greener Future for Lotusland's Sustainable Horticulture Program
- 6 Horticultural Happenings
- 7 Collections News
- 8 Art and Artifacts
- 9 Welcome New Board Members
- 10 Patron Circle
- 12 Corey Welles Tribute
- 13 Donor Highlights
- 14 Upcoming Events
- 16 Endowment Giving
- 17 Staff Highlight: Mike Furner
- 18 Discover The New Lotusland App
- 19 Open Pathways
- 19 Commitment for Staff Success and Wishlist
- 20 Preserving Lotusland
- 21 Water Management Practices
- 22 Donor Appreciation



PHOTO: Bob Craig

## A SPLASH OF GENEROSITY

### Ellen's Koi Come to Lotusland

**ROBERT RISKIN**, of Riskin Partners Estate Group, reached out to Lotusland with a unique and generous proposition. His client, Ellen, recently acquired a property adorned with many koi. However, the existing pond on the estate proved insufficient for the sizable school of mature koi. Recognizing the need for a more suitable environment, Robert, whose ties with Lotusland span many years, considered the Japanese Garden Reflecting Pond as the perfect refuge for these special fish.

Lotusland embraced the opportunity to provide a new home for the 55 mature koi. Transported with care by the Lotusland team, the koi found themselves in an oasis within the expansive Japanese Garden. The tranquil setting immediately proved to their liking, as reported by the gardeners who witnessed the koi's swift acclimatization.

This addition of vibrant and lively koi to the Japanese Garden Pond has not only enriched the biodiversity of Lotusland but has also become a source of joy and fascination for those who frequent the Garden.



AN ENDURING COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

# A Greener Future for Lotusland's Sustainable Horticulture Program



ABOVE: Get Hooked test plot

## LOTUSLAND'S SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE PROGRAM IS ADVANCED THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF ERIC AND WENDY SCHMIDT.

Lotusland, long renowned for its botanical wonders and commitment to sustainable practices, is thrilled to announce the receipt of a grant award for a partnership project that aims to revolutionize horticulture by utilizing fish waste as a soil amendment. Established in 1993, Lotusland has evolved into one of the world's premier botanical gardens, showcasing over 950 endangered plant species. Under the leadership of former staff Mike Iven, John LaFluer, Corey Welles, and many dedicated gardeners and staff, Lotusland has continually embraced organic and regenerative techniques, resulting in a resilient and thriving landscape.

With Corey's retirement in 2023, succession planning presented an opportunity to capture and document decades of gardening innovations. The grant was awarded to enable the creation of a comprehensive Plant Health Care Technical Guide, to train a successor, and to pioneer a transition to a locally sourced fish and kelp fertilizer. Hannah French, former Grounds Supervisor, has studied and recorded Lotusland's horticultural successes in a Technical Guide to document and preserve the knowledge and experience of the past 25-plus years of the Garden's evolving sustainable horticulture practices. Ultimately, the grant will help Lotusland launch its updated sustainability microsite to share the Garden's tested techniques and resources with the broader community.





**LEFT:** Get Hooked testing pH levels. **RIGHT:** Get Hooked fertilizer brewing. **BELOW:** Get Hooked test plot after.

**To advance its leading sustainable horticulture program, Lotusland is helping to develop and test an innovative fertilizer made from local sustainable fish and kelp waste in partnership with Get Hooked Seafood.**

Also, as part of the sustainability advancements, the Lotusland team is piloting a new organic fertilizer with waste from Get Hooked Seafood and evaluating the ecological benefits of a fertilizer from a local source. Beyond Lotusland, the project contributes to reversing climate change by reducing our carbon footprint and fostering a circular economy. The pilot program's use of locally sourced fish waste aligns with sustainability goals, ensuring traceability and reducing dependence on imported sources.

The project sets the stage for continued expansion of Lotusland's mission, embedding sustainability in all aspects of its work. Stay tuned for updates as we document our progress, share our findings, and inspire positive change in communities worldwide.

**Get Hooked on Sustainable Fisheries**

Get Hooked was founded by Kim Selkoe and Victoria Voss, local women who knew the value of making healthy food tasty, convenient, and fun. Their passion for local seafood and their shared ties to the Santa Barbara fishing community led them to this venture.

Like Lotusland, the Santa Barbara Channel is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, with a mix of kelp forests, rocky reefs, sand flats, and sea grass beds. In deeper waters, bottom fishes like rock cod and halibut thrive along underwater shelf and canyon areas.

The waters of the Santa Barbara Channel region are incredibly dynamic—temperature, currents, and nutrient levels are always changing. This dynamism comes from the combination of cold and warm currents colliding in the Channel and a complex geomorphology from islands, headlands, and canyons that further stir up the ocean currents as they flow by.

These complex currents concentrate plankton, creating lush feeding grounds that support large schools of squid, sardines, and mackerel, which in turn fatten up migrating whales, tuna, and swordfish as well as resident sea lions, dolphins, sharks, and other predators.

Our local waters are best suited to small-scale, adaptable fisheries that respond to the ups and downs of species availability. Many members of the fishing community are part-timers who work in other sectors when the fishing season ends or when conditions shift. All are owner-operated boats with crews of 1-2 only. Responding adaptively to the ecological conditions is a key aspect of fishing sustainably.

Although Get Hooked is a for-profit company, their work is centered on mission-driven partnerships with other community groups, such as Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara Food Action Network, and the national CSF movement's LocalCatch.org. A friendship with White Buffalo Land Trust led Get Hooked to develop a fish fertilizer that could be used in both ornamental horticulture and agriculture.

For more information, or to subscribe visit: <https://gethookedseafood.com/>





# Horticultural Happenings

## CHANGES IN THE DECIDUOUS ORCHARD

**THE SMART AND EFFICIENT USE OF WATER** is a vital aspect of sustainable horticulture in drought-prone, seasonally dry climates like southern California. Responsible use of water not only allows us to reduce water use and maintain exceptional plant vigor, it also enhances biodiversity above and below ground. Through a generous grant from The Garden Club of Santa Barbara, Lotusland has taken steps to further increase the irrigation efficiency of our Deciduous Orchard, with a new upgraded irrigation system utilizing highly efficient anti-root intrusion subsurface drip tubing. In addition to quadrupling the number of valves, the new system allows us to efficiently target groupings of trees rather than employing an irrigating all-or-nothing approach. In November 2023, we added nearly 5,000 feet of high-efficiency drip throughout the orchard, and customized the size of each tree's rings to concentrate water at and beyond the dripline, training root systems to be expansive. An exciting feature of the new tubing is that drip emitters are consistently spaced at 1-foot intervals, which means there are almost 5,000 emitters distributed throughout the orchard, giving us far better irrigation coverage than before.

Efficiently applying water to a greater area benefits the orchard by increasing the volume of moist soil for roots to explore, resulting in larger root systems better suited to handle future droughts, as well as overall healthier trees. Soil biological activity increases with the presence of moisture; therefore, moist soil also has the benefit of added biological activity and accompanying ecosystem services. By effectively irrigating soil, we not only keep it alive, but provide soil organisms with more ideal conditions where they can process organic materials, cycling nutrients and sequestering carbon. This diverse soil biome is mirrored by the above ground biodiversity represented by a diverse array of fruit trees, wildflowers, seed grown insectaries, and the wildlife that visits the orchard like native bees, butterflies, and varied species of birds, animals, and insects. Efficiently adding water where it counts helps our gardens, wildlife, and the environment, and we thank The Garden Club of Santa Barbara for helping make this project possible.



A young apple tree surrounded by cosmos, tithonia, yarrow, and California poppies. The old irrigation system, seen in the back, will be disassembled for parts and repurposed for smaller projects.



Newly installed anti-intrusion copper drip tubing prior to being covered with mulch.



Lavender insectary planting in the Deciduous Orchard with visiting honeybee. Insectary plantings throughout the orchard encourage pollination and fruit set and provide habitat for various organisms.



## COLLECTIONS NEWS

# Cycads, Ferns, and the Most Unusual Plant Specimen

By Paul Mills

### Phase Two of the Great Cycad Plant-Out

This past fall another group of cycads were replanted in the Cycad Garden after being rehabilitated in the nursery following an infection of *Armillaria mellea* or oak root fungus. The majority of the cycads were Mexican species of *Dioon* and *Ceratozamia*, plus eight plants of the African genus *Encephalartos*: all were successfully reestablished. The 22 plants of *Dioon* that were replanted contained a number of endangered species such as *D. purpusii*, *D. caputoi*, and *D. sonorensis*, and within the genus *Ceratozamia*, the critically endangered *C. zaragozae* and *C. kuesteriana* were also planted. This bed is once again replete with cycads, and after the substantial improvements made during the Save the Cycads project they will thrive into the future.

### Hardy Fern Foundation (HFF) Fall Distribution

Each year, the Hardy Fern Foundation, which is based out of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington, offers a selection of choice ferns to its 18 affiliate gardens across the country. Lotusland has been an affiliate since 2008, reporting data on fern horticultural worthiness and hardiness information. The Garden also takes part in the spore exchange, where spore is collected and shared among members to “encourage the study, cultivation, preservation, and propagation of ferns.”

Last fall, we received 13 new types of ferns for the collection that are currently housed in the Lotusland nursery. This spring, select areas of the Fern Garden will undergo soil improvements in anticipation of planting these new, exciting ferns in the Garden.



TOP LEFT: Gardeners Jorge Mendieta, Michael McGowan, and Nilofar Borojerdian inspect the roots of *Ceratozamia sabatoi* prior to planting. TOP RIGHT: Senior Gardener, Mike Furner, poses with *Tillandsia* 'Samantha'. BOTTOM: The newly acquired *Dryopteris lepidopoda* (sunset fern) has beautiful orange-red newly emergent fronds

### *Tillandsia* 'Samantha' Comes to Lotusland

Some of the hidden benefits of Lotusland's signature plant auction, Exceptional Plants, is that our generous plant donors often bring more plants to add to Lotusland's collections. Last year, Pamela Koide-Hyatt of Bird Rock Tropicals, generously donated several tillandsias for the bromeliad collection, including the one-of-a-kind hybrid, *Tillandsia* 'Samantha'. This coveted *Tillandsia* is an award-winning hybrid of *T. mooreana* and *T. kalmbacheri* that was created by Pam herself. The beautiful and unique plant was nominated as a finalist for 'Plant of the Year' at the 2012 Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show. In 2013, it was the winner of FloraHolland Glass Tulip, and in January of 2017 *Tillandsia* 'Samantha' won the Most Unusual Plant Specimen and Favorite New Flowering Plant at the TPIE 2017. It is a fantastic addition to the Lower Bromeliad Garden.



ABOVE: Photos of the Pavilion by Jesse Tarbox Beals circa 1929

## ART AND ARTIFACTS

# Restoring Lotusland's Tunisian and Puebla Tile Collection

**THE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION** of Lotusland's historic tiles is a vital preservation project of our art and artifacts. Decorative ceramic tile is an important feature of Lotusland, incorporated in fountains, benches, planting boxes, and as decorative trim to structures. Restoration is an act of renewal. It is the process of bringing an artifact back to its original condition without the damage that it may have acquired with time. This involves historically accurate reproductions by master glaze chemists and artists dedicated to the importance of creating tiles by hand that come as close as possible to the originals, using materials that are obtainable today.

We are grateful to Nola Stucky of Santa Barbara-based NS Ceramic Incorporated for her generosity, expertise, and artistry in the current restoration of two significant types of ceramic tiles: Puebla and replicas of Tunisian tiles. These tiles decorate the fountains and runnels of the intimate Pavilion Patio designed by George Washington Smith and celebrate the beauty of water. When a thin layer of water flows over the sunlit glazed tiled surfaces, there is an appearance of a greater volume of water, magnifying the tiles' reflective power. The design of patterns for the basin floors gives the water the appearance of movement.



LEFT: Puebla tile RIGHT: Tunisian tile

## Frank Lloyd Wright Garden Symposium

**JOIN OUR FRIENDS AT THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY** for a riveting symposium on April 13, 2024 at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre. The all-day event explores Frank Lloyd Wright and his Southern California work and legacy.

Lotusland Members enjoy special pricing. For tickets and information visit: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/education/flw-garden-symposium>





## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

# Ganna Walska Lotusland Welcomes Two New Members of the Board of Trustees

*“We are thrilled to welcome our new Trustees, Elizabeth and Susie. Both are skilled professionals and committed community volunteers. Their competencies, experience and skills will undoubtedly improve Lotusland and advance our efforts and governance.”*

— David M. Jones, Ganna Walska Lotusland President



### SUSIE READ CRONIN

Susie is a local artist, author, and poet with a studio in Summerland. Educated at the Madeira School in McLean, VA, Susie Cronin received a BA in English from Williams College, MA, where she developed her passion for art and design. Cronin served on the board of Vermont Studio Center for twenty years.

Susie and her husband Ted, founder of Manchester Capital Management, moved to Santa Barbara from Vermont in 2016. Since coming to Santa Barbara, Susie's bronze sculpture has been featured in Lotusland exhibitions including *Flock* (2015) and *Lotusland Celebrates* (2023). Cronin has been featured in solo and group exhibitions across the country. Her exhibition *Fables, Foibles and Fairytales* has traveled to 18 museums, and was featured last year at the Elverhøj Museum in Solvang. Her bronzes are held in private and public collections including the Erie Art Museum and the Southern Vermont Arts Center. Susie is also a published author and poet. Her titles include *Bronze Casting in a Nutshell* and three books of poetry, the most recent of which is entitled *What's Left*.



### ELIZABETH PATTERSON

Elizabeth is a graduate of Boston University where she earned her BA in Art History, and later earned her MBA from Pepperdine University, and a Master of Arts from Pacific Graduate Institute. Her professional background includes work in non-profit management (with an emphasis in fund development) and private foundation management. She has served on numerous charitable boards, museums, independent schools, and social service organizations. She currently serves as a trustee of Cate School, Carpinteria, and the Thornton Foundation, Los Angeles.

Elizabeth has a keen interest in the preservation and restoration of historic properties, including homes and gardens. Through her relationship with the Thornton Foundation and Thornton Gardens (a historic home and eight-acre garden in San Marino, California), she remains active with the Council of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Currently, Elizabeth works as a licensed marriage and family therapist in private practice. She and her husband, Tom, live in Santa Barbara. Together, they have four adult children.

## PHILANTHROPIC MEMBERSHIPS

# Sustain the Garden

### GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES OUR PATRON

**CIRCLE MEMBERS.** The Patron Circle provides invaluable support to the people and programs that make Lotusland one of the most spectacular gardens anywhere. Patrons' philanthropic gifts enhance this unique horticultural treasure for all to enjoy. Thank you to our Patrons for helping to keep the vitality of the Garden alive with your Membership support.

#### INNOVATOR'S CIRCLE

Christy & Carl Parker  
Ashley Arnold & Jeffrey Ponchick  
RMC

#### VISIONARY CIRCLE

Julia Benbenek  
Krista Raine Levitan

Steward Circle  
Jeanne & Robert Anderson  
Kathryn Calise  
Hilary & Tooe Courtemanche  
Grace Douglas & Yann Nury  
Arthur R. Gaudi  
Carrie Cooper & Glenn Griffith  
Penny & Dr. Steven Gundry  
Belle Hahn  
Monica Koegler-Blaha  
Susan & Robert Loeff  
Suzanne & Gilbert Mathews  
Julie & Peter Morley  
Molly Munger & Stephen English  
Lauren Palla & Henry Hedeon  
Connie & John Pearcy  
Dina & David Saalisi  
Jackie & Jeff Schaffer  
Jill Taylor & Ray Link  
Lynda Weinman & Bruce Heavin  
Julianne Willig

#### GUARDIAN CIRCLE

Ashley & Scott Adelson  
Maureen & Edward Bousa  
Ron Burkle  
Pat & Ron Caird  
Alicia Carnevali  
Marcia & John Mike Cohen  
Julie & Roger Davis  
Rebecca & Rob DeSantis  
Lucy Doheny  
Patty Elias & Michael Rosenfeld  
Christine & Robert Emmons  
Marguerite & John Potter Feinberg  
Coleen Richardson Friedel & Ted Friedel  
J. Scott Francis, the Francis Family Foundation  
Janice Feldman & Mitchell Grossman  
Christine Bruce & John Hilliard  
Lesley Cunningham & Cyndee Howard  
Judy & David M. Jones  
Katherine Kims & Eric Ng  
Kim L. Hunter & Paulo P. Lima, Ph.D.

Art Luna & Tim Clarke  
Carole MacElhenny  
Joseph Marek & John Bernatz  
Belinda Menendez & Dominique Borno  
Mimi Michaelis  
Kyle Murray  
Marcie & Robert Musser  
Sally Sheridan & Andy Norris  
Kevin O'Brien  
Alexandra & Jeffrey Pfeifer  
Evelina Pivavarava & Franck Ruimy  
Natalie & Eric Pressly  
Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree\*\*  
Della V. Rollé & Gary Uwé  
Talia & Jay Roston  
Stephen Schaible & Daron Buita  
Jeffrey Romano & Stan Shayer  
Judy Shea  
Anitra Sheen  
Christine Smith  
Meera & Ramamurthy Suresh  
Christopher J. Toomey  
Nita & Henk van der Werff  
Jami & Scott Voulgaris  
Cheryl Burke & Alan Weiss  
Noelle Wolf  
Beth DeWoody & Firooz Zahedi

#### CONSERVATOR CIRCLE

Leslie & Harrison Bains  
Elizabeth Batarse  
Susie & Riley Bechtel  
Leslie & Philip Bernstein  
Chuck Brewer  
Merryl Brown  
Susan & Peter Cheney  
Cristal Clarke  
Jenny Marshall & Tom Cleveland  
Cheryl & Bradley Cohen  
Allison & Timothy Coleman  
Kim & Geoff Crane  
Patrick & Sandra Crotteau  
Kevyn & Ryan deRegt  
Melanie Cava & Todd Drevo  
Sandra & Ian M. Fisher  
Jim Foster & Guillermo Nicolas  
Andrea & Mark Gabbay  
Priscilla & Jason Gaines  
Judith Little  
Linda & Fred Gluck  
Perri Harcourt  
Melinda Goodman-Kemp & Robert Kemp

Liz Laffont  
Nicole & James Lambert  
Dorothy Largay & Wayne Rosing  
Stephanie Fowler & Irving Levin  
Sandra & Patrick McCune  
Siobhan McDevitt & Brian Calvin  
Mercedes Millington & Jack Mithun  
Maia Kikerpill & Daniel Nash  
Michael Loftis & Erik Nickel  
Elisabeth Perakis  
Julie & Steven Rist  
Phyllis & Clifford Ruddle  
Nancy B. Schlosser  
Jens Sorensen & Kyle Irwin  
Theresa Strempek & Peter McMillan  
Pam & Russ Strobel  
Erin & James Tamer  
Cabana Home, Caroline Thompson  
and Steve Thompson  
Susanne & Gary Tobey  
Susan & David Viniar  
Rick & Sheila Vitelle  
Michael MacElhenny & David Wine  
Diana Wold Marszalek & Donald Marszalek  
Lisa & David Wolf  
Johanna Woolcott & Eugene McCarthy  
Crystal & Clifford Wyatt  
Jane Ross & James Yaffe

#### CULTIVATOR CIRCLE

Maren Hansen & Steve Aizenstat  
Mary Unzueta & Nathalie Alberts  
Mary Lou Ardohain  
Deirdre & Will Arntz  
Pamela & Michael Avnaim  
Amy & Glenn Bacheller  
Gretchen Bartzen & Michael Rippey  
Suzy Batiz  
Alisa & Robert Baur  
Donna R. Benaroya  
Robert Benham  
Lucy Bidwell  
Tami Roman & Scott Borman  
Maribeth & Claire Borthwick  
Susan Bowey  
Susan & Jeff Bridges  
Laura & John Bridley  
Daniel Bifano & Allan Brostrom  
Diane & Tim Brown  
Gabriella Taylor & Nicholas Brown  
Susan Brunn  
Steve Buchanan  
Elizabeth & Jack Bunce  
Tania & John Burke  
Connie & Nigel Buxton  
Susan & Brett Crane  
Elizabeth Case  
Louise & Tim Casey  
Shireen & Ryan Clarkson  
Betsy & Ken Coates  
NancyBell Coe & William Burke  
Stephanie & Paul Comstock  
Karen & Brian Conway  
Ana & Robert Cook  
Rebecca & James Craig  
Vickie & Bob Craig  
Susan Read & Ted Cronin



Lynn Cunningham Brown & Chris Brown  
 Nima Dabestani & Glenn Lawson  
 Jocelyn Belloni & Shawn R Dailey  
 Alicia & John Daley  
 Xorin Balbes & Truman Davies  
 Holly & Joel Dobberpuhl  
 Rachael Douglas  
 Teena Colebrook & Robert Dunlap  
 Kathy & Tom Dunlap  
 Karen Lantz & Andrew Farkas  
 Patricia & Gordon Feingold  
 Sintija Felder  
 Sandra Russell & Jim Foster  
 Amy Windmueller & Mark Frank  
 Connie Frank & Evan Thompson  
 Laura Franke  
 Maureen & Tandy Freeman  
 Natalie & Simon Fuller  
 Debra Ann Galin  
 Dorothy H. & John Gardner  
 Emily Gerr & Lisa Walters  
 Molly & Dino Ghoussias  
 Barbara & Bill Gillette  
 Amy & Zoe Gordon  
 Rhonda & Chris Graef  
 Timothy Gregory  
 Mary Hamershock & Audrey DeBruine  
 Stephanie Hammett  
 Chelsea Swanson & Steve Harding  
 John Hayes  
 Brook Harvey-Taylor & William Taylor  
 Robin & Roger Himovitz  
 Jane Hind  
 Arlene & Barry Hirschfeld  
 Alicia & Joshua Holm  
 Barbara Hunt  
 Chana & Jim Jackson  
 Luci & Rich Janssen  
 Jasmine Tennis & Corry Jobin  
 Donna Fellows & Dave Johnson  
 Dennis John Jurcak  
 Carol & Tara Kaiser  
 Beth & Kenneth Karmin  
 Bonnie Kelm & Bill Malis  
 Mahri Kerley  
 Rebecca Keyes & Jeff Haggin  
 Kate Kim Shaw  
 Sheri Eckmann & William Klansek  
 Patricia Aoyama & Chris Kleveland  
 Irene & Bruce Klores  
 Michelle Martinez & Thomas Kuo  
 John La Puma  
 Buff LaGrange Leach & Alec Leach  
 Mary & Doug Hampson  
 Maria Lantz Levitt & Buddy Lantz  
 Arlyn & Michael Latin  
 Ellen Lawson  
 Amanda Moose & Edward Lazarus  
 Liz & Eric Lefkofsky  
 Xavier Maignan  
 Maryanne Mott & David Manning  
 Emily Benson & Lisa Martel  
 Joy Masoff & Lou Scolnik  
 Anna Maynard  
 Kristina & Christopher McCausland  
 Brenda & Rick McDonald  
 Kathryn Dole & Bruce McGuire

Scott Cook & Jay McLennan  
 Nora McNeely Hurley & Michael Hurley  
 Anna & Aria Mehrabi  
 Lori Kraft Meschler  
 Mari & Hank Mitchell  
 R. Scott Henningsen & P. Kelley Mooney  
 Meridith Moore  
 Lisa Moore  
 Eric Nagelmann  
 Adele & Loi Nguyen  
 Dede & James C. Nonn  
 Gretchen & Jack Norqual  
 Carole Novak  
 Nancy & Tony Ochoa  
 Belita Ong & J. Gordon Auchincloss  
 Mitchell Opalski  
 Ellen Lehrer Orlando & Thomas Orlando  
 Rick Oshay  
 Nancy Parker & Eric Stull  
 Carolyn Parks  
 Elizabeth & Tom Patterson  
 Janee Pennington-Watson  
 Alexandra & Michael Perry  
 Debora & Gary Petlow  
 Heather Sturgeon & Fernanda Pett  
 Elena Urschel & Catherine Pilgrim  
 Kelley & Terry Pillow  
 Gwen Potiker  
 Liz King & Judith Powell  
 Prince Harry and Meghan,  
 The Duke and Duchess of Sussex  
 Stacy & Ron Pulice  
 Peggy Wiley & Wilson Quarre  
 Blair & Stephen Raber  
 Marny Randall  
 Christine Pillsbury & Sandro Raniolo  
 Brenda & Garland Reiter  
 Barbara & Wesley Root  
 Anastasha Rousso & Evan Berger  
 Patricia Ryan  
 Chiemi & Shawn Sakamoto  
 Kimberly & Daniel Sanner  
 Leslie & Mark Schneiderman  
 Gerald Incandella & George Schoellkopf  
 Katherine Meier & B Lee Schumacher  
 Allison Raine & Jonathan Seelig  
 Karen Lehrer & Steve Sherwin  
 Holly & Lanny Sherwin  
 Laurie Siegel & Joseph Nosofsky  
 Tom Sloyan  
 Connie Smith  
 Barbara & Wayne Smith  
 Nati & Michael Smith  
 Barbara Nagle Statler & Gordon Statler  
 Mary Jane & Ronald Steele  
 Wendy A. Stein & Bart Friedman  
 Stefani & Jeremy Stein  
 Liza & Jim Stevens  
 Ann & Ken Stinson  
 Sheila Stone  
 Shari Sullivan  
 Christine Thacker & Daniel Geiger  
 Tanya Thicke  
 Leslie Thomas & Richard Salzberg  
 Erin & John Thornton  
 Patricia Tisch  
 Georgette Topakas & Ray Hicks

Adam Feild & Erik Torkells  
 Jacquelyn Klein-Brown & Michael Trambert  
 Vicky Tsai & Eric Bevan  
 Janet & Jack Underwood  
 Negin & Steve Urry  
 Debbie & Milt Valera  
 Carol Vernon & Bob Turbin  
 Erin & G.M. Nicholas Vik  
 Deanne Violich  
 Ann & Mark Vuchinich  
 Nancy Wall  
 Kate Borger & Steve Wall  
 Tim Walsh & Mike Healy  
 Alexander Watson  
 Shirley & Ken Waxman  
 Patty & Nick Weber  
 Isabel & Paul Wendt  
 Kathy & Bob Wenger  
 Audrey & Zygmunt Wilf  
 Christie & Morgan William  
 Carolyn & Bob Williams  
 Gregg Wilson & John Maienza  
 Christine Wong & Jeffrey Light  
 Victoria & William Yakobovich  
 Gina & Alex Ziegler  
 Ellen & Jim Zissler

*Patron Circle members active in 2023.*

*\*\*Deceased*

## ANNOUNCING Patron Circles

*In 2024 Garden Lover Circles become Patron Circles.*

This title change acknowledges our members' commitment to philanthropy, not just as Garden enthusiasts but as vital Patrons supporting the future of this botanical nirvana.

Visit [Lotusland.org/membership](https://Lotusland.org/membership) to learn more. We invite you to elevate your membership and become a philanthropic force within our extraordinary community.



## TRIBUTE

# Corey Welles' Roots Sustainability and the Lotusland Legacy

by Stacy Pulice

When I was offered the opportunity to write about Corey Welles, in honor of his retirement after 33 years at Lotusland, most recently as Sustainability Manager, I jumped at the chance. Corey is a true agent of transformation for all beings that cross his path, human and otherwise—myself included. Variouslly called a genius, ahead of his time, and a human spark plug, he's legendary for his rare passion, commitment, and loyalty to Lotusland, and for the impact he's made here and beyond.

But before I dig into the incredible change he's spearheaded during his tenure (and the moment he and I met along the way), I want to go way back to the earliest beginnings that made Corey who he is. When I moderated this year's second Lotusland Sustainability Symposium, where Corey was the keynote speaker, and more recently interviewed him for my podcast, *Regenerative Spaces*, I wanted to know what made him tick. I was curious about the innate spark that ultimately steered him down his path to become the rock star plant whisperer he is today, so I asked about his early fascinations. When did his passion for sustainability begin?

As a kid, Corey was obsessed with insects, especially the most dangerous

and dramatic varieties. He delighted in presenting his collections to his horrified yet admiring mother. Not only was this unique gift not "schooled" out of him, it was positively nurtured, as he led his astonished young classmates on adventures in the wild, teaching them about his beloved insects. His true nature was clear from the outset, and circumstances conspired to nurture it.

His passion for all forms of life was further developed during six years at SBCC, where he took every life science course they had to offer, including botany, horticulture, zoology, ornithology, entomology, and marine biology. A triathlete and long-distance runner, he competed on the cross-country team under the tutelage of a coach who also happened to be a local landscape contractor. Initially helping out after school, Corey soon became indispensable and was highly sought after for his horticulture skill as well as his aesthetic talent creating stunning floral displays for clients.

A chance meeting with Lotusland's then-director Steve Timbrook brought Corey onboard the fledgling nonprofit botanic garden in 1990, and soon he began working under the guidance of director Mike Iven and pest manager John

LeFleur. It would seem fate had a hand in bringing them together because by the mid-1990's they met with a pivotal challenge that would define Corey's career. The aloe plants he managed were dying, pests were rampant, and the conventional remedies being used at the time were not working. He remembers "the soil was bleached out, basically dead, having been chemically treated for so long." Like many revolutionary ideas, the decision to try an organic approach in the Garden began at a time when they had nothing left to lose. The first desperate yet bold move was to simply stop using all chemical poisons. After just one year, the improvement was positively dramatic, and he knew he was on to something.

Encouraged, Corey doubled down on life-promoting practices in the higher-stakes Rose Garden, experimenting over time with organic compost teas, mulch, and increasing the diversity of plants, mycorrhiza, insects, bats, and birds. Perhaps his childhood curiosities, and his devotion to even the tiniest critters, were essential here. To me, this is the source of Corey's real gifts: an intense desire to make people happy and his willingness to try things out and see what happens, trusting Mother Nature to lead the way, even when others saw these regenerative approaches as strange and radical. Keep in mind, 50-year-old industrial agriculture methods were still very much the norm, but that didn't seem to scare Corey one bit.

By the time Corey and I connected in



2005, he was still experimenting, but well on his way. Our mutual friend Eric Nagelmann had insisted I meet an unusual man who, with some magic plant juju, was able to make the rare botanic gardens at Lotusland come alive. True to form, Corey treated me like royalty, spending hours explaining his special mix of mulch, compost teas, and pure love for the plants. I was converted by his infectious commitment to the mysteries of organic growing, which inspired me to begin shifting my family's own avocado orchards toward sustainable practices. And I know I'm not the only one.

Of course, when it comes to regenerative practices, every journey has its unique twists and turns, and real change takes time and patience. Corey has encountered ample challenges during his tenure at Lotusland, including serious droughts, fires, pandemics, and a debris flow. Yet in life and in the Garden, his mantra is to assume there will be abundance, while keeping a keen eye on

limiting factors. In the case of Lotusland, eight years ago he created a 12-pronged plan to stay ahead of the curve with the looming water shortage by increasing soil biology, planting drought tolerant natives, and switching to drip irrigation. These changes resulted in a 25% reduction in water consumption, while the gardens have expanded by four acres.

Now considered a brilliant guru and teacher of sustainable horticulture, Corey insists that "fear is our biggest obstacle in the Garden, and we must be willing to kill some plants along the way." One basic principle serves as fundamental: "more life begets more life, so plant your way to success."

Let's think of that adage as we send Corey off to pursue "more life" of his own on Bainbridge Island. But before he passes the torch, he has documented the practices developed over his tenure, leaving behind a living model and a legacy for future generations.



## DONOR HIGHLIGHT Restoring Heritage, Building Community

In the heart of our Garden lies the century-old Pavilion Patio, a cherished space that has withstood the test of time, witnessing countless gatherings, events, and lectures. This historic haven, however, faced the inevitable toll of age until two philanthropic souls stepped forward to breathe new life into its venerable structure. Their impactful gift has not only revitalized the Patio but has added modern enhancements, including wheelchair access, new drainage, ambient lighting, and the meticulous restoration of historic fountains and tiles. Through their vision, this space has been transformed into a vibrant hub for the community, fostering connection and shared experiences.

*"Lotusland is a center of botanical excellence, architectural significance, horticultural education, and simply an inspiration to all who visit. We are honored to be a part of such a significant and critical Capital Campaign as Lotusland celebrates its 30th anniversary as a public garden. Our intention is to motivate and encourage other loyal (and future) Lotusland supporters to join us to preserve and protect this world-class space left by Madame Walska. We are very excited and proud to be contributing to the Garden entering its next era."* —Julie and Roger Davis, Lotusland Supporters, Honorary Council Members

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, February 28 • 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

### **Well-being Wednesdays: Forest Bathing with Elena Rios**



**FOREST BATHING**, originally developed in Japan as *shinrin-yoku*, refers to the practice of immersing all your senses in the healing forest as you connect with the natural world. Join ANFT Certified Nature & Forest Therapy Guide and Inter-disciplinary Artist Elena Rios for an immersive experience in the Garden. Elena draws inspiration from her grandmother, who was a Curandera as well as her partnership as a cultural practitioner with Japanese Shinto Priest, Hiroji Seikiguch. She is an indigenous Azteca Chichimeca woman of the Americas, with distant genetic Chumash links, multi-ethnic Spanish, and Scot-Irish ancestry.

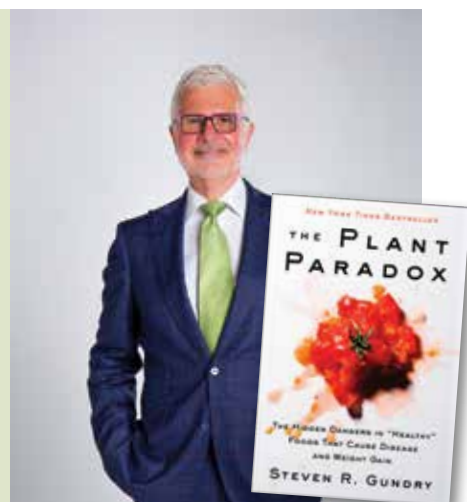
Tickets for Well-being Wednesdays are \$50 for Members and \$85 for Non-Members. We encourage participants to make an additional reservation for the afternoon tour to extend their Garden experience. Space is limited and reservations are required. View more information and reserve online at [Lotusland.org/events](https://Lotusland.org/events).

**Saturday, March 2 • 6:00 p.m.**

### **The Plant Paradox Wine Dinner at El Encanto, A Belmond Hotel, with Special Guest Dr. Steven Gundry**

**JOIN THE PARTY** at El Encanto for a spectacular evening of food and wine. Dr. Steven Gundry, author of *The Plant Paradox*, will collaborate with the culinary team at El Encanto, a Belmond Hotel, to design a Plant Paradox menu with exceptional wine pairings. This intimate group will wine, dine, and learn about *The Plant Paradox*.

Tickets are \$1,000 per person with 100% of proceeds benefiting the care of the Garden. Learn more about and reserve your spot by contacting Samantha Lloyd-Knauf, Manager of Annual Giving, at 805.969.3767 or [development@lotusland.org](mailto:development@lotusland.org)



**Tuesday, March 5 • Noon to 2:00 p.m.**  
**Annual Meeting**

**EACH YEAR THE GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND BOARD OF TRUSTEES** gathers along with our generous Guardian and Steward Circle Members for Lotusland's Annual Meeting. The 2024 program will feature Guest Speaker Peggy Perry presenting *Dames in the Garden: Women Who Shaped California's Landscape* and will be followed by an al fresco picnic lunch.

Join as a Guardian Circle member to receive an invitation to this special appreciation event. Learn more by contacting [development@lotusland.org](mailto:development@lotusland.org), or 805.969.3767

**Saturday, March 16**  
**Private Tour of Virginia Robinson Gardens**

**SEE THE LARGEST STAND OF KING PALMS** outside of Australia and the oldest coral tree (*Erythrina caffra*) in the state when we travel to the Virginia Robinson Gardens. The Virginia Robinson Gardens are the period landscape, historic mansion, and botanical gardens located at the Virginia Robinson Estate. Built in 1911, the Robinson mansion was one of the first homes in Beverly Hills. Today, the garden is recognized as a historical landmark and an exotic paradise.

View more information and reserve online at [Lotusland.org/events](https://Lotusland.org/events).



**Wednesday, April 10**

**1:00 p.m. – sunset**

**Gardens in Paradise:  
Private Gardens of Fernald Point**

**A RARE OPPORTUNITY** to experience the most exquisite and stunning private gardens on Fernald Point. Join preeminent landscape designer Eric Nagelmann as he leads guests through Gardens he has curated and designed. Meet the homeowners and hear the story behind the breathtaking landscapes. You will see beauty, horticultural and architectural excellence, incredible design and vision.

Benefit tickets are \$2,000 per guest, or \$5,000 for a series sponsorship, which includes another equally special outing in November. Reservations are required. For more information or to reserve a space, please call Samantha Lloyd-Knauf, Manager of Annual Giving, at 805.324.8425 or [development@lotusland.org](mailto:development@lotusland.org)

**Wednesday, April 24**

**2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**A Compost Tea Party**

**JOIN LOTUSLAND'S SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER**

Chris Ziliotto along with special guest, renowned educator and pioneering environmentalist Dr. David White, for an insightful look into Lotusland's compost tea program. After a brief presentation by Dr. White on the soil food web, we will trek to Lotusland's compost piles for a behind-the-scenes look at how the tea is made, the methods of application, and the science behind why it works. Go home with a organic materials to jump start your own compost tea program.

This event is co-sponsored by White Buffalo Land Trust and Get Hooked Seafood. Space is limited and reservations are required. View more information and reserve online at [Lotusland.org/events](http://Lotusland.org/events).

**Saturday, May 18**

**2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**A Spring Picnic at Lotusland**

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG AT LOTUSLAND.** Don't miss the roses in bloom and the Insectary Garden in its full colorful glory! Bring the family and pack a picnic for an outing to remember with live music on the Great Lawn, plenty of space to spread out your blanket, and a Garden in bloom to explore.

\$60 for Member Adults / Member's Children \$25 and \$85 for Non-Members Adults / \$30 Non-member Children. Space is limited and reservations are required. View more information and reserve online at [Lotusland.org/events](http://Lotusland.org/events)

**Friday, April 19 • 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

**Member's Wine & Walk**

**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 provided by local winemakers and bask in the golden hour glow. The chance to stroll the Garden as the sun begins to set is a special opportunity reserved for Lotusland Members and their guests only.

Tickets are \$60 for Members and \$85 for Member's guests. This event is a complimentary benefit for Patron Circle Members. Space is limited and reservations are required. View more information and reserve online at [Lotusland.org/events](http://Lotusland.org/events).



**SAVE THE DATES**  
for Lotusland's signature  
fundraising events

**Saturday, July 20**  
**Lotusland Celebrates**

**Saturday, October 5**  
**Exceptional Plants**  
**Auction**

## ENDOWMENT GIVING

# The Lotus Society

### A COMMUNITY SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF LOTUSLAND

Endowment donors are like-minded in their love of Lotusland and their support for the preservation of this horticultural masterpiece for future generations.

You can join this devoted group and leave a lasting legacy of your own. Through gifts to the endowment, or by using gift-planning vehicles such as bequests and life income gifts, you can address personal financial goals and make a meaningful and lasting gift to Lotusland.

When you make a bequest or life income gift, you are welcomed into The Lotus Society, along with supporters who elect to make a gift that is restricted to support and grow Lotusland's endowment. Members enjoy up to two exclusive events per year that celebrate the importance of the Garden.

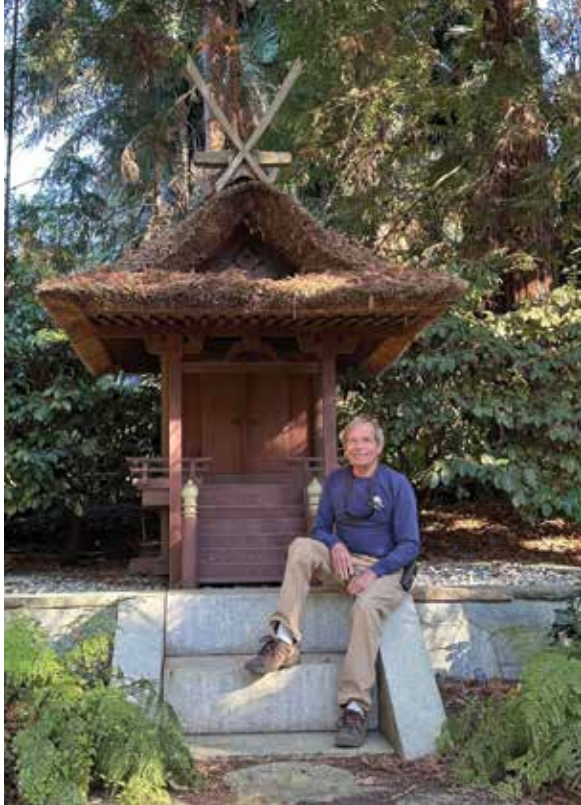
#### **As a member of *The Lotus Society*, you join a dedicated group whose support enables:**

- Restoration and preservation of the historic and unique estate and gardens.
- Botanical beauty and tranquility, enjoyed by the community and visitors worldwide.
- Collections of plants that are rare and exceptional, and in some cases, endangered or extinct in their native habitats.
- Environmental education of local school children.
- On-site classes, lectures, and workshops on a variety of topics.
- A community resource for innovative horticultural design, sustainable gardening, and protection of the environment.

If you are interested in learning more about joining a devoted group of Garden stewards by including Lotusland in your estate plan, please contact us at [thelotussociety@lotusland.org](mailto:thelotussociety@lotusland.org) or 805.324.8426.







TOP LEFT: Mike in front of the Shinto shrine that he constructed together with Peter Stollenwerk. TOP RIGHT: Mike preparing a hole to plant a large cycad in the newly designed Cycad Garden in 1978. INSET: Hand written note from Charlie Glass to Madame Ganna Walska encouraging her to hire Mike in 1978



## STAFF HIGHLIGHT

### Mike Furner

**HAVING RECENTLY CELEBRATED HIS 45TH ANNIVERSARY** of employment at Lotusland, Mike Furner has spent more time at the Garden than just about any other person—employees, volunteers, or even the previous owners, including Madame Ganna Walska. His knowledge of the Garden is all-encompassing and irreplaceable, and he has been part of many of the significant developments that have taken place during Lotusland’s recent history.

Mike’s initiation to Lotusland was as an employee of Griffin Tree and Landscape, which did much of the contract landscape work at the time. His years working for Griffin included one of the most important projects to ever happen at Lotusland—the construction of the Cycad Garden. Mike and others spent weeks root-balling cycads and moving them into the newly designed garden, starting with the three plants of *Encephalartos*

*woodii*. “This made me incredibly nervous, knowing the importance of these plants,” remembers Mike. It was Charlie Glass, Garden Director under Madame Ganna Walska, who urged her to hire Mike as staff after observing firsthand his talent as a plantsman on this project.

After joining the staff, Mike worked in both the Cycad Garden and the Aloe Garden until he found his true passion – bromeliads. He devoured information about these exotic plants and would travel far and wide to learn more. Not long after, Mike transferred to the maintenance department where his attention to detail and woodworking skills really came to the forefront. According to Mike, some of his greatest accomplishments were during this time. He worked together with Peter Stollenwerk to construct the Shinto shrine and wisteria arbor in the Japanese Garden, reconstruct the lemon arbor, and build the bird house in the Insectary Garden, along with countless infrastructural improvements that were taking place at the time as the Garden prepared to open to

GARDENER  
MON., MAR. 11  
YOU REMEMBER MIKE  
FURNER FROM GRIFFIN  
FURNER WANTED TO  
COME TO LOTUSLAND  
TO WORK, BUT YOU WERE  
CONCERNED THAT  
GRIFFIN MIGHT OBJECT.  
HE HAS NOW LEFT  
GRIFFIN AND WILL  
BE FREE TO COME  
TO LOTUSLAND IF YOU  
WILL ACCEPT HIM. I  
SINCERELY HOPE SO  
AS HE IS AN EXCEL-  
LENT GARDENER  
WHICH WE NEED.  
GLASS

the public. In recent years Mike has transitioned back to horticulture with his signature zeal and devotion to care once again for his beloved bromeliads. It’s because of Mike’s passion for this plant collection, coupled with help from his cadre of devoted volunteers, that it has been referred to by bromeliad experts as “one of the best outdoor displays of bromeliads in any public garden.”

Join us in congratulating Mike for his lifetime of dedication to Lotusland and all of his achievements, with many still to come, when you come across him in his “office.”





## Discover The New Lotusland App

**IN PARTNERSHIP** with Bloomberg Philanthropies, Lotusland is proud to offer another way to access and experience the Garden. We're excited to share that we are now on Bloomberg Connects, a free mobile app that offers access to more than 350 museums and other cultural organizations.

This new digital guide is designed to help you connect with the Garden to explore its fascinating history and breathtaking beauty, either before you visit or from home. Sample Lotusland highlights, discover behind the scenes clips from our curators, experts, and friends of the Garden, with new and exclusive content added each season. Find information to help plan your visit, including information about docent tours and other amenities, seasonal highlights, maps, accessibility resources, and more.

**Download the Bloomberg Connects App to access our Digital Guide:**



## OPEN PATHWAYS

# Community Access Day

**LOTUSLAND RECEIVED A SPECIAL VISIT** from Mayor Randy Rowse and first lady Janet Rowse on the occasion of the Garden's Community Access Days. In celebration of 30 years of civic engagement, Mayor Rowse presented the historic estate with a colorfully inscribed vellum proclamation received by Board Trustees Laura Bridley and Jeanne Anderson. This year's program, which provide reduced rate entry to Santa Barbara residents on November 17-18th, was generously supported by the Lucky One Foundation and Lily Hahn and included free well-being sessions and sound baths presented by Kind Mind and Palma Collective.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: need image captions.



## COMMITMENT FOR STAFF SUCCESS AND WISH LIST

### Lotusland Staff: Convene, Lead and Teach at Garden Conferences in 2024

**IN SUPPORT OF OUR CONTINUED EXCELLENCE**, Lotusland is seeking support to enable its staff to participate these enriching professional development opportunities:

#### **North American Japanese Garden (NAJGA) Conference**

Japanese Garden Horticultural Supervisor Terri Clay will attend and present on the tradition of Japanese Garden design and techniques at the *North American Japanese Garden Association 2024 International Japanese Garden Conference*, entitled *Staying on the Path*, at The Fort Worth Botanic Garden in Texas.

#### **American Public Gardens Association (APGA) Annual Conference**

Staff will attend the *American Public Garden Association Annual Conference* in Boston, Massachusetts. The conference theme is *Rooted in Resilience: A Sustainable Future for Gardens*.

#### **American Public Garden Association (APGA) Plant Collection Symposium**

Director of Conservation and Curator of Living Collections Paul Mills and Assistant Curator of Living Collections Anna Bower will attend the *American Public Garden Association Plant Collection Symposium*. Paul Mills is the current Chair of the APGA Plant Collections Community.

This symposium is a key opportunity for the Lotusland curatorial team to gain invaluable insights into plant collections care and management, and form meaningful connections with fellow botanists, conservationists, and plant curators.

#### **California Association of Museums (CAM) Annual Conference**

Staff will attend the *California Association of Museums (CAM) Annual Conference* in Long Beach, California, to learn about new and innovative museum management and archives programs and best practices.



#### **Director of Large Gardens Meeting at Brookgreen Gardens**

Our Executive Director will join Large Garden Directors from across the country at the historic sculpture garden and wildlife preserve, Brookgreen Garden, in South Carolina. This annual gathering convenes leaders of the largest public gardens in the US to share knowledge, build connections, and highlight one of the nation's premiere botanic spaces.

#### **All Hands Staff Retreat - Topa Institute, Ojai**

Through the power of play and challenge, Topa Institute brings nonprofit and corporate teams together to develop leadership, connection, and collaborative skills. The retreat will foster communication and teambuilding among Lotusland staff in preparation for a new season at the Garden.

#### **Blooming in the Desert**

Our Membership Manager attended *Blooming in the Desert* the 2024 *American Public Garden Association (APGA) Membership and Development Symposium* in Tucson, AZ. The conference promotes innovative strategies and best-in-class practices that support authentic connections between people, plants, and gardens while connecting with public garden colleagues from around the country.



## PRESERVING LOTUSLAND

# What Would Ganna Walska Do?

by Cedar Pasori

**THE LOTUSLAND STORY** is one of resilience. Like its 3,000 different types of plants, many of which are endangered elsewhere, the Garden has survived for 30 years despite environmental, legal, and financial headwinds. Increasingly, those winds are getting stronger.

Founder Madame Ganna Walska spent 43 years fulfilling her ambition of creating “the most outstanding center of horticultural and educational use.” Her motto, “Despite it all,” exemplified her resolve in financing this imaginative property.

When Walska passed away in 1984, a new challenge began. Nine years and 64 public hearings later, Santa Barbara County finally allowed Lotusland to be shared with the public. A foundation created by her dearest friends set out to preserve Ganna Walska’s legacy garden.

Conservative estimates to maintain the Garden annually entered the millions—and remain there today. Behind the accolades, awards, and press is a new reality. In short: Lotusland needs sizable, accelerated philanthropy to protect the gardens and rehabilitate the 37-acre property.

We are not daunted by these challenges. With our current cap of 20,000 visitors annually, we cannot earn more ticket revenue or a more welcoming reputation. (For context, most similar gardens and museums welcome that many visitors per month.)

With a recently approved Master Plan, we have a roadmap for creative, low-impact solutions for upgrading our 100+-year-old buildings and adding amenities, including restrooms, educational demonstrations, water storage and infiltration infrastructure, plus more accessibility features.

From the outside, Lotusland is best known as a cultural asset, a one-of-a-kind botanical nirvana of beauty and vitality, and one of the ten best gardens on earth. Indeed, it grew from its origins as a commercial nursery into a horticultural masterpiece. It went from a private home to a public garden, a haven for plant enthusiasts and a center for education. It defied the odds to express Walska’s distinct vision for well-being and harmony with the natural world.

Behind the scenes, Lotusland’s beauty, which appears effortless, thanks to our

skilled staff, is crucially underpinned by sustainability. We are a longtime leader in natural resource management and have contributed to many industry standards in collaboration with national and international conservation groups. We were notably one of the first botanic gardens in the U.S. to employ environmentally responsible gardening practices using organic materials. As a result, we have healthier plants and a stronger ecosystem that helps us conserve both natural and financial resources.

Our experts are also entrusted with nurturing rare or exotic seeds from various institutions, a process that can take up to a decade or longer. Thanks to Lotusland’s coastal Mediterranean climate and ample sunshine, we are singularly suited to continue these types of innovative partnerships and experimentations.

Just as we gather knowledge and plant life from around the world, we develop new ways to share with visitors of all ages. Our Junior Botanist Program supports the next generation of horticultural visionaries and has brought fourth-grade students to Lotusland free of charge for 20 years. We remain partners with colleges, universities, and research institutions. We also have our Open Pathways and wellness programming to welcome underserved segments of the population. We feel a responsibility to keep advancing an appreciation of plants and the environment.

Through philanthropic investment, and by maintaining a legacy of loyal leadership, the Garden will flourish as a local and global resource for years to come. Your generosity and engagement are crucial for us to continue preserving, enhancing, educating, and inspiring in the ways we are uniquely positioned to do at Lotusland.





## WATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

### Did you know?

There was already a nursery and garden at this site when Montecito Water District was founded over 100 years ago. Early pioneers recognized the scarcity of the local water supply as their biggest challenge. Today, Montecito residents and visitors enjoy exquisite beauty, attributable to grit, ingenuity, and a wealth of innovations.

Lotusland, a spectacular historic gem, showcases the value of landscaping practices, education, and involvement...it all adds up to an inspiring splendor, focused on sustainability.

Mulch, green waste, cover crops—these tried-and-true strategies support water conservation. Neighbor to neighbor, ensuring water efficiency is the surefire way to guarantee a garden's long-term success. Small changes can make a big impact in sustaining the community's water future.

*Laura Camp, Public Information Officer, Montecito Water District*

## ADMISSION PRICE CHANGES FOR 2024

The ever-increasing costs associated with inflation and maintaining and improving the Garden and its programs have necessitated a thoughtful adjustment to Lotusland's pricing structure. To ensure the sustainability of our operations, we are implementing our first admission price increase since 2019.

**Beginning in 2024, adult admission is \$60 for the general public. Unique and personalized docent-guided tours are an additional \$15 per adult, free for children.**

Membership benefits have not changed, and Members and their guests enjoy free docent-led tours.

Children's admission remains at \$25, ensuring that families can continue to enjoy the beauty and wonder of Lotusland together.

As always, we partner with community organizations through our Open Pathways program to provide no-cost and discounted admission to underserved populations in Santa Barbara County. Lotusland is proud to continue our participation with *Museums for All*, an initiative offering \$3 admission for those who receive food assistance benefits.

# LOTUSLAND GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES DONORS

August, September, October, November and December 2023

## THE LOTUS SOCIETY

Dawn Leigh Anderson, Ph.D.  
Jeanne & Robbie Anderson  
Ron & Andrea Hein  
John P. Margolis, AIA  
*in memory of Lillian Prince Margolis*  
The Murphy-Sloyan Family  
Mitchell Opalski  
Alan Hochberg & Patti Prairie  
Nancy Shutt  
Christina Wolfenden Woods

## EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAMS

### SUMMER PLANT HEALTHCARE INTERNSHIP

John Percival and Mary C. Jefferson  
Endowment Fund

### EDUCATION

Patricia & Paul Bragg Foundation  
Roy E. Crummer Foundation  
Montecito Bank & Trust

## EXCEPTIONAL PLANTS AUCTION & SALE

### COLLECTOR SPONSOR

Arroyo Seco Construction  
American Riviera Bank  
Elizabeth & Tom Patterson  
Connie Flowers Pearcy  
Elena Urschel

### CONNOISSEUR SPONSOR

Ashley & Scott Adelson  
Maureen & Edward Bousa  
San Marcos Growers  
Terra Sol Garden Center  
Susanne & Gary Tobey

### GROWER SPONSOR

Jeanne & Robert Anderson  
Arcadia Studios  
Daniel Bifano & Allan Brostrom  
Lynn Cunningham Brown & Chris Brown  
Joseph Marek Landscape Architecture  
Seacrest Nursery  
Stephen Schaible & Daron Builta

Aggie Skirball  
Steve Hanson Landscaping  
David & Sylvia Weisz Family Foundation

### EXCEPTIONAL PLANTS IN-KIND DONORS

Randy Baldwin, San Marcos Growers  
Robert Bett, Plant Haven International, Inc  
Daniel Bifano  
John E. Bleck  
Anna Bower  
Laurel & Paul Carlisle  
Jeff Chemnick, Aloes in Wonderland  
Thomas Cole, Cold Spring Aloes  
Larry Disharoon  
Diane Dunhill, Diane's Plants  
Julian Duval  
Hadley Dynak, Western Hills Garden  
Sandra Russell & Jim Foster  
Matt Frost  
Daniel Geiger & Christine Thacker  
John Goetz, San Simeon Nursery Landscapes  
Adam Graham, Arroyo Seco Construction  
Steven Grant, 7 Day Nursery  
Mike Hackett  
Cameron Gardner Hannah-Bick,  
UCSB Greenhouse  
Tim Harvey  
Jay Hinkle  
Sean Hogan, Cistus Nursery  
Todd Birns & Richard Hughes  
Pamela Hyatt, Bird Rock Tropicals  
Jasper Jones  
Gene Joseph, Plants for the Southwest  
Brian Kemble, Ruth Bancroft Garden  
Liz & Chris Mankey  
Sandy Masuo  
Greg Mehlhaff  
Paul Mills  
Jeff Moore, Solana Succulents  
Kathy Musial, Huntington Botanical Gardens  
Susie Nadler, Flora Grubb Gardens  
Jo O'Connell, Australian Native Plants  
Anne B. & Daniel N. Ovadia  
Edward Read, Cal State Fullerton Biological  
Greenhouses  
Lauris & Bets Rose  
Richard Ross  
Khosrow & Mary Sadeghian  
Joe Stead, Orange Coast College  
Richie Steffen, The Elisabeth C. Miller  
Botanical Garden  
Carol Terry  
David & Eileen Tufenkian  
Mike Tully, Terra Sol Garden Center  
Noey Turk, Yes Yes Nursery  
Randy Twaddle, John Fairey Garden  
Charles Varni

Cristi Walden, Seacrest Nursery  
Leland Walmlsey, Evergreen Landscape  
Architects, Inc.  
Michael Wenzel, Sonoma Botanical Garden  
Terry Wimmer

### LOTUSFEST SPONSORS

Marly Garden

### LOTUSFEST IN-KIND DONORS

Beckmen Vineyards  
Bright Event Rentals  
Casa Dumetz Wines  
Casita de Bravo  
Donnachadh Family Wines  
Drink Ysidro  
Dusty Nabor Wines  
Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co.  
Finch & Fork  
Folded Hills  
il Fustino  
Island Brewing Company  
Jaffurs Wine Cellars  
Jardesca  
Jessica Foster Confections  
JONATA & The Hilt Estate  
Kimsey Vineyard  
La Paloma Cafe  
Loquita  
Pacific Pickle Works  
Piazza Family Wines  
Potek Winery  
Sanguis Winery  
Santa Barbara Winery  
Silver Wines  
Storm Wines  
Summerland Winery  
T.W. Hollister  
Tatomer  
tercero Wines  
The Fess Parker Winery  
The Lark  
Third Window Brewing  
Thornhill Companies/Miller Family of Wine  
Tilden Cocktails, Inc.  
Zaca Mesa Winery

## GIFTS FOR THE GARDEN

*Partial List of donors who made gifts through mid-December 2023. Additional Gifts for the Garden donors will be recognized in the Spring Newsletter.*

Gladys Aanerud  
Eve Ahlers  
Allyson S. & Todd Aldrich  
Jeanne & Robert Anderson  
Rebecca & Ian Anderson  
Arroyo Seco Construction  
Ann Griffith Ash  
Assistance League of Santa Barbara  
Michael M Baker



Sydney Baumgartner  
 Jocelyn Belloni & Shawn R Dailey  
 Plant Haven International, Inc  
 Daniel Bifano & Allan Brostrom  
 Otis Booth Foundation  
 Michael Bordofsky  
*in honor of Hillary Tentler*  
 Ann Bronstein  
 Marilyn Brooks  
 Wendy Brooks  
 Merryl Brown  
 Mary Buckingham  
*in honor of Joseph Marek & John Bernatz*  
 Sally Bucklin  
 Dan & Connie Burkhardt  
 Nigel & Connie Buxton  
 David & Wanda Caine  
 Alicia Carnevali  
 Carolyn Chandler & Hannah Barr  
 Peter & Susan Cheney  
 The Wood-Claeysens Foundation  
 Terri Clay  
 Julia Colella Carver & David Carver  
 Timothy & Allison Coleman  
 Ann Cooluris  
 Watling Foundation, Inc.  
 Geoff & Kim Crane  
 Marian Craver  
 Nancy & Thomas Crawford  
 Susan Read & Ted Cronin  
 Patrick & Sandra Crotteau  
 Julie & Glenn Davidson  
 Maureen Decker  
 Bill & Anne Dewey  
*in honor of Kitty Thomassin*  
 Tyler Diehl  
 Victoria Dillon  
 Barbara Dixon\*\*  
 Shirley Donohue  
 Rachael Douglas  
*in honor of Connie Flowers Percy*  
 Grant & Jill Dyruff  
 Michael Egan  
 Patty Elias & Michael Rosenfeld  
 Christine & Robert Emmons  
 John & Marguerite Potter Feinberg  
 Patricia & Gordon Feingold  
*in honor of Gordon Feingold*  
 Sintija Felder  
*in memory of Harry Felder, III*  
 Janice Feldman & Mitchell Grossman  
 Steve Fessler  
 David & Naoko Floyd  
 Kee Flynn  
 Cid Frank  
 Coleen Richardson Friedel & Ted Friedel  
 John Gabbert  
 Debra Ann Galin  
 Marguerite Gamo & Jennifer Rossignol  
 Dorothy H. & John Gardner  
 Alexandra Geremia  
 Jose Gonzales & Janet Harke-Gonzales  
 Melinda Goodman-Kemp & Robert Kemp  
 John Gordon  
 Perri Harcourt  
 Deanna Hatch  
 Betsy & Stephen Hawley

Lorna S. Hedges  
 Robert & Peggy Hiss  
 Chauncey & Marion D. McCormick Family  
 Foundation  
 Kyle Irwin & Jens Sorensen  
 Ann Jackson Family Foundation  
 Judy & David M. Jones  
 Carol & Tara Kaiser  
 Karen & Lonnie Kane  
 Amelia King  
 Paula Kislak  
 Harry Kolb  
 Maryann Kruse  
 Judith Little  
 Eric Love & Herman Schornstein  
 Betsy & Bob Manger  
 Joseph Marek & John Bernatz  
 Patricia Marino  
 Siri & Bob Marshall  
 Erma Martin  
 Goldman Sachs  
 Suzanne & Gilbert Mathews  
 Hilary & Bayard Maybank  
 Janet McCann  
 Jenifer McCurry  
 Jennifer McDonald  
 Lorraine McDonnell  
 Peter McMillan & Theresa Strempek  
 Mimi Michaelis  
 John C. Mithun Foundation  
 Mari & Hank Mitchel  
 Judi Mottus  
*in honor of Rob Kelch*  
 Heather & John Mozart  
 Dancing Tides Foundation  
 Mark & Shira Musicant  
 Barbara Nagle Statler & Gordon Statler  
 Nanette & Henry Nevins  
 New Beginnings Counseling Center  
 Adele & Loi Nguyen  
 Anne B. & Daniel N. Ovadia  
 Gerald & Claire Parent  
 The Thornton Foundation  
 Connie & John Percy  
 Susan Petrovich  
 Philip Pollastrino  
 Virginia Preston  
 Stephen & Blair Raber  
*in honor of Cynthia McClellan*  
 Marcia Kay & Ronald Radelet  
*in honor of Joseph Marek*  
 Eileen & Alex Rasmussen  
*in honor of Jake Trambert*  
 Alanna Rathbone  
 Martha Read  
 Frances Rehwald  
 Garland & Brenda Reiter  
 Riskin Partners  
 Barbara Robertson  
 & David Meldrum-Taylor  
 Gary Uwé & Della V. Rollé  
 Jeffrey Romano & Stan Shayer  
 Scott Rowland  
 Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society  
 Stephen Schaible & Daron Builta  
 Nancy B. Schlosser  
 Mark & Maria Schmidt

Gerald Incandella & George Schoellkopf  
 Peter Schuyler & Lisa Stratton  
 STS Foundation  
 Judy Shea  
 Patricia Sheppard & Ernie Witham  
 Pamela & Jon Shields  
 Len & Diana Simoni  
 Martha Smolen  
 Eric Spivey  
 DeeAnna Staats  
 Ann & Ken Stinson  
 Sarah Stokes  
 Harrison Stroud  
 John Stuelpnagel  
 Takako & Anthony Taketa  
 William & Doria Taylor  
 Hillary Tentler  
 Christina & Geoff Thielst  
 Jan & Steven Timbrook, Ph.D.  
*in honor of Kitty Thomassin*  
 Susanne & Gary Tobey  
 Negin & Steve Urry  
 Elena Urschel & Catherine Pilgrim  
 Sherman & Lien Vincent  
 Viniar Family Foundation  
 Deanne Violich  
 Rick & Sheila Vitelle  
 Jennifer Vogelbach  
 Charles & April Walton  
 Kimberly Warwick  
*in memory of Norma Hoffman*  
 Nadine Weil  
 Maria Cristina Weinbrenner-Dart  
 Marie Will  
 Mission Wealth Management  
 Julianne Willig  
 Linda Wilson  
 Crystal & Clifford Wyatt  
 Dianne Pettigrew Yancey & Michael Yancey  
 Grace Yoon  
*in memory of Edward Yoon*  
 Michael Cox & Patricia Zell

## IN-KIND DONATIONS

Joe Ambriz, Ambriz Kingdom of Plants  
 Eric Anderson  
 Patrick Burns, Paradise Farm  
 Gary Chau, Caffé Luxxe  
 Duo Catering & Events  
 Ellen DeGeneres  
 Joanie Domingue  
 Diane Dunhill, Diane's Plants  
 David M. Jones  
 Lady Patricia Latham  
 Mimi Michaelis  
 Pardis Nasser  
 Eric Nydam  
 Nancy Shutt  
 Cristi Walden, Seacrest Nursery

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

*\*\* Deceased*



695 Ashley Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Santa Barbara  
California  
Permit No. 163

# Winter | Spring 2024

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

**Wellbeing Wednesday**  
**Wednesday, February 28**

**Plant Paradox Dinner**  
**Saturday, March 2**

**Annual Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 5**

**Tour Virginia Robinson Gardens**  
**Saturday, March 16**

**Gardens in Paradise:**  
**Private Gardens of Fernald Point**  
**Wednesday, April 10**

**Member's Wine & Walk**  
**Friday, April 19**

**How To Compost: A Compost Tea Party**  
**Wednesday, April 24**

**Spring Picnic in the Garden**  
**Saturday, May 18**

## Lotusland Tour Schedule

We look forward to welcoming you to the Garden! Lotusland is open for public visitation Wednesdays through Saturdays with a choice of a self-guided visit or a docent-led tour at the time of reservation. Visit [lotusland.org/visit/](https://lotusland.org/visit/) to check availability and reserve your space. Space is limited and advance reservations are required. We recommend making reservations well in advance of your desired visit.

## 2024 Ticket Release Schedule:

### FEBRUARY - MARCH

1/9/24: Member Prerelease  
1/23/24: Public Release

### APRIL - MAY

2/20/24: Member Prerelease  
3/5/24: Public Release

### JUNE - AUGUST

4/23/24: Member Prerelease  
5/7/24: Public Release

### SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

7/23/24: Member Prerelease  
8/6/24: Public Release

*Ticket release dates are subject to change.*

*Additional information is available at [www.lotusland.org/visit](https://www.lotusland.org/visit).*