

Ganna  
Walska



# LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER | FALL 2024

HERITAGE LANDSCAPES OF THE GOLDEN STATE

## California Eden

LOTUSLAND CELEBRATES: *THE WAY OF THE LOTUS*

## A Blooming Success

BEHIND THE SCENES

## Lotusland's Deciduous Orchard





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

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**LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends,

Every day the dedicated team at Lotusland works tirelessly to preserve and enhance the Garden we all love: Advancing the health of our exotic collections, tending and enhancing our eclectic horticulture displays, and doing critical conservation work. Your support makes all this possible. This issue highlights two signature events through which members of the Lotusland community support the Garden's mission.



*Lotusland Celebrates* enhances our ability to protect the Garden's world-renowned collections, foster learning, and expand opportunities to experience our collections. This summer's gala brought together our most philanthropic benefactors for an evening of festivity. Their generosity makes the Garden available to audiences of all ages and from all walks of life. This

year's event was the most successful in its 30-year history – a testament to our talented event chairs and committees, and to our generous supporters whose attendance and generosity elevate this exciting affair.

At Lotusland's *Exceptional Plant Auction* (this year on October 5) plant enthusiasts and professionals gather to fête and acquire the most rare and exotic plants found anywhere, all while supporting the Garden. To our knowledge, it is the only auction of its kind in botanical gardens in California and beyond. The auction's success owes the efforts of the volunteer Exceptional Plants Committee and the garden fans who attend this fantastic event. These plant aficionados devote themselves to plant propagation and the protection of the natural world. Each year's auction is better than the last.

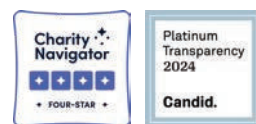
While each of these events is unique and extraordinary, they share a common thread – Bringing together a community of passionate people dedicated to enriching Lotusland as a haven for biodiversity and beauty. Thank you, to all involved for being plant heroes!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Anderson  
Executive Director  
randerson@lotusland.org

**MISSION**

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



FALL 2024  
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**On the Cover**

**ARCHITECT AND ARTIST MICHAEL G. IMBER** beautifully reflects the tranquility and timelessness of Lotusland in his watercolor featured on this season's newsletter cover. Michael's visit to the Garden in May 2024 was deeply inspiring, as Lotusland's unique blend of natural beauty and harmony left a lasting impression on his creative process. Known for his masterful approach to classical architecture, Michael also uses watercolor as a way to connect with his surroundings, creating a profound dialogue between nature and art.

As Michael himself said, "Words cannot express what a unique and important American garden Lotusland remains – no small feat without stewards... and the many others who love and care for it." Michael's artwork highlights the power of places like Lotusland to inspire moments of beauty, contemplation, and artistic expression.



*"Words cannot express what a unique and important American garden Lotusland remains – no small feat without stewards... and the many others who love and care for it."*

**MICHAEL IMBER**

# Lotusland in the Context of California's Landscape History

By Susan Chamberlin



## THE GARDENS AT LOTUSLAND

reflect many of the themes explored in the book, *California Eden: Heritage Landscapes of the Golden State*. The property's landscape history includes pre-colonial Indigenous peoples, the Spanish and Mexican colonial period, the enthusiasm for exotic plants in the Victorian age, vernacular gardens, the fascination with Renaissance-style water cascades, Japanese-style gardens, and the early twentieth century estates in Southern California built by wealthy people who wanted to escape the winter months back home in the East and Midwest. In the book's introduction, Lotusland is noted as, "perhaps the most unique example of an exotic California garden."

That is, of course, due to the equally unique Madame Ganna Walska and the many landscape architects and designers who carried out her visions for remodeling the *Cuesta Linda* estate, which she purchased in 1941.

The Lotusland estate and the lands recognized today as Montecito, are

located on the ancestral lands of the Indigenous Chumash people. They were not just hunter-gatherers living in a wilderness, they managed the landscape by prescribed burns to facilitate hunting and acorn gathering. At that time, much of the area was covered in coast live oak trees (*Quercus agrifolia*). These trees were a source of acorns for the Chumash diet, but also produced firewood, materials for items they made, and even medicines.



Japanese Tea Garden at Gardens of Golden Gate Park

*The landscape at Tanglewood was vernacular, meaning it evolved through use by the people whose activities shaped it.*

Native plants were utilized for many other needs including basket making.

In the Spanish and Mexican colonial period, Montecito Creek ran year-round before American settlers diverted water from it to their properties. A reliable source of water is why Montecito was founded along the creek in the early 1870s as soldiers retiring from the Santa Barbara Presidio were granted parcels of land. From this nucleus (still called "Spanishtown") large ranches and orchards were developed in the American period. In 1882 R. Kinton Stevens, an English horticulturist, acquired a ranch that today forms the Lotusland property. His wife, Lucy, named it Tanglewood for the tangle of coast live oak trees covering the land.

Most of the oak trees were cleared so Stevens could establish his orchards and begin his nursery. Capitalizing on the Victorian era's enthusiasm for exotic plants, he specialized in tropical and semi-tropical plants and palms. He also supplied thousands of lemon trees to Montecito ranchers. To irrigate his stock, Stevens piped water from Cold Spring Creek to a reservoir. He dammed rain runoff to create a pond and filled it with lotus. This would become the lotus pond which inspired Walska to name her property Lotusland. The landscape



Lotusland Blue Garden

at Tanglewood was vernacular, meaning it evolved through use by the people whose activities shaped it. Today's Dracaena Circle includes a dragon tree and palms dating back to Kinton Stevens' vernacular Victorian garden, and his lotus pond is a central feature of the Japanese Garden. The Olive Allée has trees he used for propagation.

Tanglewood would be a victim of the great migration to Southern California by wealthy people from the East and Midwest fleeing harsh winters. The property was developed into the *Cuesta Linda* estate beginning around 1916 by the Gavit family from Albany New York. They employed the famous architect Reginald Johnson of Pasadena to design their new winter residence in the fashionable Mediterranean style believed to be appropriate for California's climate and history. The unfashionable Stevens house was demolished, and the property was remodeled in the latest Mediterranean and Spanish Colonial Revival styles by landscape architects Peter Riedel and Paul G. Thiene. When she bought the estate, Walska retained the formal gardens and Parterre

**ERRATUM:** Landscape Architect Grant Castleberg worked closely with Elizabeth Kellam de Forest to ensure the wishes of the benefactor, Alice Keck Park, were carried out accurately. ("Dames in the Garden: Women Who have Shaped the California Landscape" by Peggy Sears Perry, Ph.D. *Ganna Walska Lotusland Summer 2024 Newsletter*)



El Fureidis in Montecito

behind the house, the Cypress Allée, and the Water Stairs – a variation on Renaissance-style water cascades that were all the rage when *Cuesta Linda* was built. Landscape architect Ralph T. Stevens (Kinton's son), architect George Washington Smith, stonemason Oswald Da Ros, and others gave form to many of her idiosyncratic ideas.

In some ways, Lotusland is a typical California garden because, like most California gardens, it features plants that originated elsewhere. However, the way they are employed is what makes Lotusland so unusual. Beginning with the first cacti and euphorbias laid out around the house in 1941 by the landscape architect Lockwood de Forest, Walska went on to create a surrealistic wonderland. Since Lotusland opened as a public botanical garden in 1993, the Japanese Garden has been redesigned to be more authentic, the collections have been expanded, and Lotusland has become influential worldwide. This influence is clear wherever cacti and succulents are planted in masses or people copy elements of its Blue Garden to achieve dreamy effects.

## California Eden: Heritage Landscapes of the Golden State

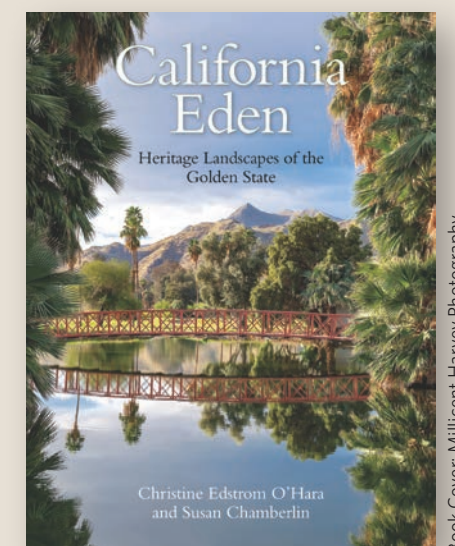
Edited by Christine Edstrom O'Hara and Susan Chamberlin

Published by Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library

**FOR MANY PEOPLE**, the concept of landscape is associated with gardens, especially estate gardens. *California Eden* reaches beyond the elite realm of private estates and highlights a wide range of landscapes from the indigenous to the professional and the vernacular. This collection of important essays is based on early issues of *Eden: Journal of the California Garden & Landscape History Society* with new chapter introductions by O'Hara and Chamberlin.

Christine Edstrom O'Hara, PhD, is a professor of landscape architecture at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Her research is focused on landscape history.

Susan Chamberlin, MA, is a landscape historian and a licensed landscape architect. She is a former adjunct faculty member of Santa Barbara City College, where she taught garden history.



Book Cover: Millicent Harvey Photography

# Horticultural Happenings

## THE 8<sup>TH</sup> GLOBAL BOTANIC GARDEN CONGRESS

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

SINGAPORE IS WIDELY REGARDED AS A CITY WITHIN A GARDEN, boasting 400 parks and gardens, over 3,000 hectares of natural areas and millions of urban trees with innovative architecture and design that incorporates plants and green spaces into all aspects of the city. Although one of the most densely populated areas in the world, it manages to provide one of the highest standards of living. Singapore was the perfect backdrop for Botanic Garden Conservation International's 8th Global Botanic Garden Congress (GBGC) from August 5-10th of this year and co-hosted by Singapore Botanic Gardens.

The GBGC is held every three years in different corners of the world and is an invaluable gathering of professionals from botanic gardens large and small, old and new from around the globe. This year's theme was "Botanic Gardens



The GBGC is organized by BGCI and is the largest gathering of botanic gardens. Lotusland is an institutional member of BGCI.

BELOW: Supertree Grove at Gardens by the Bay festooned with bromeliads



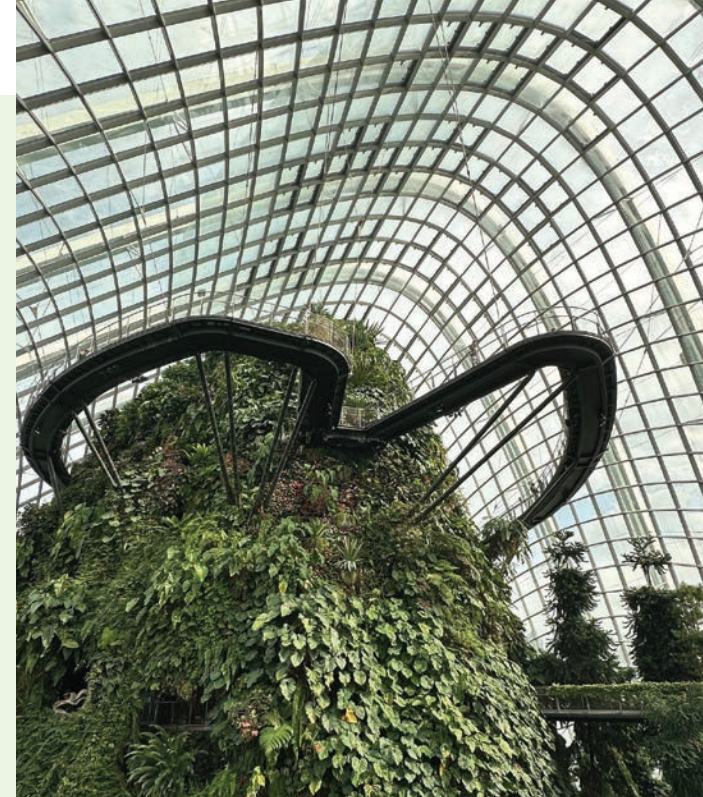
Paul Mills, Director of Plant Conservation and Curator of Living Collections

– People and Plants for a Sustainable Future” which comes at a pivotal time when the role of botanic gardens in actively protecting plants is greater than ever, simultaneously working to raise public awareness of the importance of plants in our lives and for the health of the planet.

Inspirational and impactful opening remarks and plenary presentations were given by Tan Puay Yok, Director of Singapore Botanic Garden, Paul Smith, Director of BGCI, Steven Blackmore, BGCI and RBG Edinburgh, with the keynote address by Yu-Ning Hwang, CEO of National Parks Board about the greening of Singapore.

Each day offered a plethora of concurrent sessions and workshops, divided among four recurring themes – Plant Diversity and Conservation, Green and Sustainable Cities, Engaging Communities and Gardens for the Future. An overarching theme of collaboration emerged as the congress progressed with special emphasis on the importance of metacollections, or plant collections made up of individual collections held at separate institutions – a relatively new tactic for safeguarding plants from extinction.

From the travails of developing botanic gardens in the Himalaya or Haiti to creating a continent-wide seed bank or how to conserve pollen, no topic was left out during the concurrent sessions at the congress. Workshops that took place included an intriguing one presented by Cambridge University Botanical Garden on their efforts to develop a standardized, global plant collections database. Others



The skywalk in the Cloud Forest Conservatory at Gardens by the Bay

*This year's theme was Botanic Gardens – People and Plants for a Sustainable Future.*

focused on raising awareness of the illegal plant trade and of BGCI's Global Conservation Consortia.

Pre and post conference tours took attendees to Singapore Botanic Gardens and Gardens by the Bay with others traveling farther afield to natural and restored areas of the island. Singapore Botanic Garden (SBG) has a rich history having been founded at its current location in 1859. SBG is one of only three botanic gardens in the world that is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is home to the National Orchid Collection, an orchid conservation lab and the national herbarium containing 800,000 specimens. Gardens by the Bay, on the other hand, is the youngest garden in the national network, with construction having started in 2007 and has already established itself as a horticultural masterpiece, showcasing plants from around the world including arid regions, Mediterranean and montane cloud forest in climate-controlled conservatories.

Thank you to Lotusland's generous supporters that have donated to our Professional Development Fund, making this invaluable experience possible. The benefits of attending the conference will support and strengthen Lotusland's sustainable future.

## THE DISASTER RECOVERY FUND

IN 2022 AND 2024, WE PROUDLY SUPPORTED THE UKRAINE BOTANIC GARDEN APPEAL, helping gardens impacted by the ongoing conflict. Now, we're continuing that commitment to plant conservation through a new collaboration with The Botanist Gin and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI).

The Botanist has released a limited-edition Plant Conservation Edition bottle, with £5 from every purchase going directly to BGCI's conservation efforts. These funds will support over 20 botanic gardens worldwide, enabling them to safeguard endangered plant species and preserve biodiversity. This initiative builds on our longstanding efforts to protect botanical collections in times of crisis, from natural disasters to human conflict.

The Disaster Recovery Fund, launched in 2022, continues to support botanical gardens across the globe as they risk their health and safety to protect invaluable plant life. Through this fund and partnerships like the one with The Botanist Gin, we are committed to ensuring that no species is lost due to environmental challenges.

We encourage you to learn more about this impactful project and consider supporting this vital work. Together, we can continue to preserve the world's most critical plant species.

Learn more by scanning the QR code.



## COLLECTIONS NEWS: Lotusland Orchards

By Anna Bower, Assistant Curator of Living Collections

**SOME OF THE FIRST FRUIT TREES** grown on the Lotusland property were lemons planted by R. Kinton Stevens during his family's ownership from 1882-1913. In addition to supplying lemon trees for many Santa Barbara orchards during the planting peak of 1886-1893, his 1891 and 1893 nursery catalogs list a wide variety of tropical and semi-tropical fruit trees as well as vines, bananas, and pineapples.

When Madame Ganna Walska purchased the property, she inherited two orchards from the Gavit family, owners from 1916 to 1939. Aerial imagery indicates there were two main orchards in their present-day locations in 1928 as well as a walnut orchard in the back field from at least 1948 to 1980. The orchards near the Main House were split into two sections, one with citrus trees (including the Lemon Arbor) and the other with deciduous fruit trees. Madame Walska later added additional fruit trees such as papaya and cherimoya. Some of the oldest remaining trees in the Deciduous Orchard are the persimmons located along the drive from the Staff Entrance.

In its current rendition, the Citrus Orchard contains 69 trees, including limes, oranges, lemons, citron, grapefruits, tangerines, yuzu, mandarins, kumquats, guava, and an



avocado. The Deciduous Orchard houses 86 trees, including almonds, apples, apricots, cherries, chestnuts, figs, Japanese apricot, mulberry, nectarines, pawpaw, peaches, pear, Asian pears, persimmons, plums, pomegranate, and quince. New trees are added every few years as disease resistant, low-chill, or more suitable cultivars become available. Recently our Garden staff have added some of the new-to-the-trade combination fruits such as apriums (apricot × plum), nectaplums (nectarine × plum), pluots (plum × apricot), hybrid cherry-plums (Japanese plum × cherry-plum), and plumcots (plum × apricot).

Fruit harvested from the orchards is served at events, shared with Lotusland staff and volunteers, and the excess is donated to food banks in the community. The orchards remain as a tie to the former owners of the property and history of horticulture in Santa Barbara.

### APPLE SCION FROM FILOLI

#### FRUIT TREES ARE OFTEN PROPAGATED VEGETATIVELY

through grafting, where the desired fruiting wood, or scion, is united with a compatible rootstock. Rootstocks are selected for: their ability to reduce the height and control the vigor of the scion; disease and pest resistance; better suitability to droughts or waterlogged soils; and to grow weeping forms on top of a standard.

Last winter, Lotusland received scions of five apple cultivars from Filoli Historic House and Garden in Woodside, CA. Filoli houses an over 100-year-old orchard with more than 600 fruit trees. The five cultivars were chosen for their edibility, interesting flesh color, and low chill requirements, meaning the number of cumulative "chill hours" below 45°F between November and mid-February.

Fruit trees have varying requirements with some needing between 700 to 1,000 "chill hours" to produce flowers and fruit. Last season (2023-2024), Santa Barbara experienced 139 "chill hours", and our goal is to add more suitable low chill fruit trees to the Deciduous Orchard.

The newly grafted apple cultivars include:

- 'Dolgo': a crabapple with crimson 1-inch fruits, great for jelly
- 'Pink Pearl': a pink-fleshed, yellow-skinned cultivar developed in 1944 by strawberry and apple breeder Albert Etter.
- 'Pink Princess': a pink-fleshed cross of 'Pink Pearl' and 'King of the Pippins' originally hybridized in 1967 by Fred Jansen, founder of the North American Fruit Explorers. Said to be sweeter than 'Pink Pearl'.
- 'Cinnamon Spice': originally discovered in Bolinas, CA. Has sweet flesh with notes of cinnamon.

- 'Hudson's Golden Gem': a 1931 seedling found in Tangent, Oregon. The fruit has a russet finish and an elongated shape with crisp, nutty, pear-like flesh.

The scions were grafted onto MM.111 apple rootstock at Lotusland's nursery in February using an apical, or wedge graft. MM.111 rootstock is drought tolerant, adaptive to a wide range of soils, and creates a semi-dwarf tree. These grafted apples will likely remain in the nursery for another year before they find their permanent home in the Deciduous Orchard.



## SUSTAINABILITY AT LOTUSLAND: Internship Spotlight

By Magdalena Porter, 2024 Plant Health Care Intern



**MY EXPERIENCE AT LOTUSLAND** has been a series of happy surprises. Before starting work as the Plant Health Care Intern at Lotusland I had never set foot in the garden, I didn't know what to expect from my internship, but it was so much more than I could have hoped. It has been an excellent way to continue my education in horticulture after graduating from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in Plant Science. Working under Chris Ziliotto, Lotusland's Sustainability Manager, I learned about the sustainability program in the garden and how to improve soil health. The hands-on experience of making and distributing compost tea was unique. Not many botanical gardens have a program like Lotusland, and the effects are noticeable.

I also got to practice my pest management knowledge by identifying insects and diseases in the garden. Integrated pest management tactics brought what I have studied to life in a dynamic, real-world setting. The opportunity to rotate through all the gardens and their gifted caretakers gave me a chance to see how the sustainability practices were being implemented in every section of the garden. I am incredibly grateful for the experience and my deepened understanding of conservation and botanical gardens. The community at Lotusland has been welcoming and inspirational, I feel very lucky for the privilege of this opportunity.

### JOHN PERCIVAL AND MARY C. JEFFERSON ENDOWMENT SUPPORTS SUMMER INTERNS

**THE SUSTAINABLE PLANT HEALTH CARE INTERNSHIP** at Lotusland immerses interns in sustainable horticulture practices, making it one of the few, if not the only, internships in the country that focuses specifically on sustainable plant health care within a public garden. Under the guidance of Chris Ziliotto, Lotusland's Sustainability Manager, interns actively participate in ecological soil management, composting, organic fertilizers, and beneficial microorganism applications across the Garden's diverse 37-acre landscape. They experience firsthand how non-toxic, environmentally friendly methods are used to manage plant health, soil fertility, and pest control, applying their theoretical knowledge in real-world, sustainable horticultural practices. This flexible, three-month internship, offered each June through September, provides an unparalleled opportunity to engage in the practical application of sustainable plant care in a renowned public garden setting.

Support for the Sustainable Plant Healthcare Internship program is provided by a grant from the John Percival and Mary C. Jefferson Endowment Fund. Facilitation of this grant over the years has made it possible for Lotusland to engage and nurture many emerging leaders in horticulture.



Chris Ziliotto, Sustainability Manager, and Magdalena Porter, 2024 Plant Health Care Intern.



# EXCEPTIONAL PLANTS

AUCTION | OCTOBER 5, 2024

*The Ultimate Plant Party!*

## THE EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING

for the 13th Annual Exceptional Plants Auction, where plant enthusiasts and community members alike will come together for an unforgettable afternoon. This much-anticipated event, has become a beloved tradition among Lotusland members and supporters. It offers a unique blend of camaraderie, competition, and a shared passion for the extraordinary plant life that makes Lotusland so special.

This year's auction lot has been brought to life under the expert leadership of Paul Mills, Director of Conservation and Curator of Living Collections at Lotusland and our dedicated committee experts who have worked tirelessly to curate the selection of plants. Our dedicated committee experts include: Jeff Chemnick, owner of Aloes in Wonderland and a renowned authority on Mexican cycads and a research associate at Lotusland; Cristi Walden of Sea Crest Nursery, known for her extensive knowledge and passion for palm trees; Robert Bett of PlantHaven International, whose leadership has brought innovative plant varieties to market; Randy Baldwin of San Marcos Growers, whose expertise in Mediterranean and California-native plants has greatly expanded the nursery's offerings; and Mike Tully of Terra Sol Garden Center, recognized for his passion and extensive knowledge in horticulture.



Exceptional Plants Committee (L-R): Cristi Walden, Randy Baldwin, Jeff Chemnick, Robert Bett, and Mike Tully.

The auction features a remarkable selection of plants, many of which have been propagated at Lotusland. However, what truly makes this event unique is the inclusion of plants donated by the committee members themselves, each reflecting their specific areas of expertise. These contributions, along with those from other esteemed botanical institutions, gardens, and donors, offer an unparalleled opportunity for attendees to acquire a diverse and unique array of plants that showcase the very best of horticulture.

The opportunity to bid on and take home such rare and exceptional plants from distinguished sources is a unique experience that draws people from across the region. It is a chance to bring home a piece of Lotusland's botanical heritage all while supporting the continued care and preservation of this remarkable collection.

The Exceptional Plants Auction is a celebration of the people, plants, and passion that make Lotusland one of the most extraordinary botanical gardens in the world.



**View Auction lots and learn more about the Exceptional Plants Auction online.**



## GIFTS for the GARDEN

**SUSTAIN THE MAGIC OF LOTUSLAND** this holiday season with a meaningful gift through our Gifts for the Garden appeal. Your support not only impacts our dedication to sustainability, plant conservation, education, and access but also helps preserve the beauty of Lotusland for generations to come. By contributing, you become an integral part of our mission to nurture and celebrate this extraordinary garden, ensuring it remains a cherished haven for all.

As a special appreciation of your support, gifts of \$250 or more received by December 31, 2024 will be entered in a drawing to win a behind-the-scenes Curator Tour of the Lotusland Nursery for up to four guests.

**Please visit [lotusland.org/support](https://lotusland.org/support) to make a gift today**, or contact Samantha Lloyd-Knauf, Manager of Annual Giving, at 805.969.3767, ext. 105.

*Together we protect and grow this awe-inspiring oasis.*



**DID YOU KNOW?** Congress has renewed a special opportunity for individuals to donate through their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).

- While there are many ways to support the Garden, donating IRA funds may offer a unique tax benefit.
- If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from your IRA to contribute.
- In 2024, individuals with traditional IRAs can donate up to \$105,000 in QCDs to qualified charities (excluding donor-advised funds) tax-free. Typically, withdrawals from traditional IRAs are taxed as income, but QCDs are not. If you are 73 or older, these QCDs can also count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

To distribute a charitable gift from your IRA, ensure that your IRA's custodian transfers it directly from the IRA to Ganna Walska Lotusland.

**Please visit [lotusland.org/support](https://lotusland.org/support) to make a gift today, or contact [development@lotusland.org](mailto:development@lotusland.org)**

Ganna Walska Lotusland is a 501 (c)(3). Tax ID number 23-7082550.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Exceptional Plants Auction!

**Saturday, October 5  
1:00-4:00 pm**

**Tickets: \$150 Per Person  
(See page 10)**

### Discovering Cartier: Lecture followed by Botanica Tea at El Encanto, A Belmond Hotel

**Monday, October 21  
1:30-3:30 pm**

**JOIN US** for an insightful talk on the history of Cartier, including its relationship with Madame Ganna Walska, the visionary founder of Lotusland, and her personal jewelry collection. This exclusive event will be held at El Encanto and will be presented by Regional Prestige Executive Sales Advisor at Cartier, Worthy McCartney, who will share her extensive knowledge and passion for Cartier's illustrious jewels.

**Tickets: \$350 Per Person**

**Advance reservations are required.**



### Music and More at Mattei's Tavern

**Sunday, October 27, 5:00-7:00 pm**

**JOIN US AT THE BEAUTIFUL, HISTORIC MATTEI'S TAVERN** in Los Olivos for an evening of music and community, benefiting Lotusland and its conservation efforts. Enjoy live old-time tunes by Glendessary Jam, featuring Anna Bower, Assistant Curator of Living Collections. Savor local flavors prepared by Mattei's Tavern's talented chefs with pairings by Santa Ynez Valley wineries.

**Tickets: \$250 Per Person**

**Purchase your tickets today and join us with friends old and new for an evening in support of the Garden!**

### Gardens in Paradise - Montecito Eden

**Wednesday, November 13,  
9:00 am-2:00 pm**



**LED BY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS** Derrik Eichelberger and Kalie Grubb of Arcadia Studio, this progressive garden party will reveal the magic behind two unforgettable properties designed by the award-winning firm. Participants will engage in botanical and architectural discovery, while enjoying fine wines provided by Trippers & Askers, and a gastronomic experience by Acme Hospitality.

**Tickets: \$2,000 Per Person (\$1,750 tax deductible).** For more information about this fundraising series and to reserve, contact **Samantha Lloyd-Knauf**, Manager of Annual Giving at 805.324.8425 or [development@lotusland.org](mailto:development@lotusland.org)

### Adult Studio Art Class - En Plein Air at Lotusland

**Saturday, October 26, 1:00-4:00 pm**

**IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM**

**OF ART**, artists of all levels are invited to paint en plein air in the gardens under the influence of the painters of the Barbizon School who found their inspiration in the French countryside, and whose work is on view in the current exhibition *A Legacy of Giving: The Lady Leslie and Lord Paul Ridley-Tree Collection*.

**Tickets: \$125 Lotusland + SBMA Members  
\$150 Non-Members.**

**Advance reservations are required.**



Alfred Sisley, *Springtime in Moret-sur-Loing*, 1890. Oil on canvas. SBMA, Bequest of Leslie L. Ridley-Tree

### Community Access Days

*Sponsored by Lilian Hahn Shining in honor of Sarah Romo*

**Wednesday, November 6 and Thursday, November 7**

**LOTUSLAND COMMUNITY ACCESS DAYS** enable Santa Barbara County residents to visit Lotusland for half the standard entrance fee! These self-guided tours last one and a half hours with staggered arrival and departure times. For first time visitors, or long time Lotusland fans, the Garden always inspires and restores.

**Tickets: \$30 Adults and Children  
Children Under Two are Free**

**Limit four tickets and one vehicle per reservation.**

**Space is limited and advance reservations are required. Carpooling is encouraged.**

With a special appearance during the afternoons from Eyes in the Sky, Santa Barbara Audubon Society's key wildlife education program featuring live birds as ambassadors to educate the public about the role rehabilitated raptors in our local ecosystem.

### Members Holiday Shopping and Garden Walk

**Saturday, November 30  
Save the Date!**

**LOTUSLAND OPENS ITS GATES** exclusively for Members. Take this special opportunity to explore the gardens, enjoy the beauty of Lotusland, and pick up unique holiday gifts in our Garden Shop and benefit from your members-only discount.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER:

# LOTUSLAND CELEBRATES 2024

THANKS TO YOU, OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL GALA YET!



ON SATURDAY, JULY 20TH, 2024, Lotusland hosted its highly anticipated annual gala, Lotusland Celebrates: *The Way of the Lotus*. This year's event, one of Southern California's most social traditions, saw 500 of the region's most passionate supporters, community leaders, and cultural influencers gather to support the Garden's mission of conservation, education, and sustainability.

The evening was a spectacular celebration of the beauty and biodiversity that make Lotusland a world-renowned botanical treasure. Guests enjoyed a whimsical stroll through the gardens, where they were treated to unique performances, including an ethereal dance by Luminario Ballet at the Japanese Garden Reflecting Pond and the soothing sounds of sitarist Esha Shrivastava amid blooming lotuses. The night's ambiance was further enhanced

by an art exhibition in the Palmetum of work made from fallen trees on the property during winter storms. Entitled *Grounded Works Inspired by, Connected to, and Reclaimed from Lotusland*, the exhibited art by 17 regional artists, was curated by Ashley Woods Hollister and Johanna Burton, The Maurice Marciano Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles.

Jane Lynch, our charismatic emcee, brought her signature wit and energy to the event, adding a delightful spark that made the evening truly memorable. Special guest Alice Waters also graced the occasion, sharing her passion for sustainability and the natural world, which resonated deeply with all in attendance.

As guests convened on the Great Lawn, they were met with a delightful array of experiences, from bespoke cocktails and a tequila tasting to oracle readings and



live music. The atmosphere was filled with anticipation as the live auction, led by Jim Nye of Auctioneers for Good, commenced. Bidders competed for one-of-a-kind experiences, including a private tour of Alice Waters' Edible Schoolyard, exclusive getaways to New York and France, and a VIP Formula 1 experience—each designed for the

highest bidder, with all proceeds supporting Lotusland's vital programs.

The evening's success was made possible by the generosity of Lotusland's community, whose support ensures that the Garden can continue its mission of preserving plant biodiversity and fostering environmental stewardship. The gala, which raised over \$1 million, marked a record achievement for the Garden and highlighted the importance of this event in sustaining Lotusland's operations.

While we celebrate this incredible milestone, we also express our deep gratitude to everyone who made it possible, including our dedicated co-chairs, Ashley Adelson, Lisa Bjornson Wolf, and Merryl Brown, whose leadership was instrumental in the event's success. We extend our deepest gratitude to those who attended, raised their paddles, and generously donated and purchased auction items in support of the Garden. Your commitment to



Lotusland's mission is what makes Lotusland Celebrates one of the most anticipated and impactful galas in the region. We are hopeful that with continued support, we can maintain this level of success in the years to come.

**Lotusland Celebrates thanks its Presenting Sponsor, Manitou Fund and Nora McNeely Hurley and Michael Hurley and our premiere partners who made this evening unforgettable.**

FROM LEFT: Lisa Bjornson Wolf, Ashley Adelson, and Jane Lynch, Luminario Ballet in the Japanese Garden, Alice Waters and Rebecca Anderson

Photos: © Isaac Hernández de Lipa  
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## WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE LOTUSLAND CELEBRATES: THE WAY OF THE LOTUS SUPPORTERS

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(Continued)





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Dinner Wines | Ashley & Scott Adelson, Antica Terra  
 Flowers | Herb & Bui Simon  
 Champagne | Lisa & David Wolf  
 Cocktail Entertainment | Merryl Brown Events  
 Bar Décor | Merryl Brown Events  
 Cotton Candy Station | Merryl Brown Events  
 Welcome Beverage | Bjornen Design  
 Photo Backdrop | The Unlikely Florist

Registration | Andrea Gray Wild  
 Cocktail Napkins | Dan Bifano & Allan Brostrom  
 Table Numbers | Maureen Decker  
 Graphics | Mary Ta, Minotti Los Angeles and  
 MASSBeverly  
 Goodbye Gift | Heretic Parfum

### ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM

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### EVENT COMMITTEE

EVENT CHAIRS  
 Ashley Adelson  
 Merryl Brown  
 Lisa Bjornson Wolf

### HONORARY COMMITTEE

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Sandi & Bill Nicholson  
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**SAVE THE DATE: The 2025 Lotusland Celebrates gala will be held on Saturday, July 19th, 2025.** Members will receive priority access to sponsorship opportunities and tickets. Be sure to join or renew your membership to be the first to know and to secure your place at this extraordinary event.

#### CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

Mark Schmidt and Alixe Mattingly, Belle Hahn and Lilian Hahn Shining, Judy and Peter Morely, fire dancer Romi Qumes, David M. Jones, lotus display, Mary Ta, sitarist Esha Shrivastava, Sima Morrison, Jennifer Drucker, and Kate Kim.

#### Photos:

© Isaac Hernández de Lipa  
 © Nell Campbell  
 © David Mendoza III





**LOTUSLAND FOREVER CAMPAIGN SPOTLIGHT:**

## John C. Mithun Foundation Gift to Create Outdoor Classroom

**THE LOTUSLAND FOREVER CAMPAIGN** continues to gain momentum and receive generous support.

We are grateful for the generosity of The John C. Mithun Foundation whose \$500,000 gift is providing funding for a new *Outdoor Classroom* area in the Tropical Garden. The new educational gathering area will be a serene natural space where students of all ages can engage in hands-on, focused learning, lectures, gatherings, and more. Lotusland is committed to educating our community about the importance of plants, plant conservation, and sustainable horticulture practices. Our unique Junior Botanist program, which meets the California Science Standards, brings 4th grade school children to the Garden to experience and learn about plants and provides teachers with lessons to share and reinforce learning. In 2023, our trained docents provided school field trips to over 2,000 children from across Santa Barbara County. The immediate impact of our educational programming is evidenced by students' grasp of new plant

*“By supporting Lotusland, we are investing in a resource which enriches our community, educates future generations and preserves this exceptional treasure.”*

**MERCEDES MILLINGTON AND JACK MITHUN**

*“This new outdoor classroom space will foster groups of students and inspire learning, awe, and wonder for the natural world.”*

**CONNIE PEARCY, LOTUSLAND FOREVER CAMPAIGN CHAIR**

science concepts, such as photosynthesis. Schools from across Santa Barbara County indicate that Lotusland is one of the highest-rated and most desirable field trips available to them.

“Our support for Lotusland stems from their remarkable dedication of preserving nature’s beauty and fostering environmental education. Lotusland is more than just gardens and it’s where visitors are treated to a horticulture wonderland can find a unique connection to the natural world. By supporting Lotusland, we are investing in a resource which enriches our community, educates future generations and preserves this exceptional treasure,” said Mercedes Millington and Jack Mithun.

Lotusland’s youngest visitors are often the most profoundly moved by the Garden. We frequently hear from people who visited Lotusland as students about the impact the visit had on the trajectory of their studies and the indelible memories made in the Gardens.



## GARDENS IN *Paradise*

**NOVEMBER 13, 2024 | 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR** of Montecito’s most stunning private gardens. Led by award-winning landscape architects Derrik Eichelberger and Kalie Grubb of Arcadia Studio, this progressive garden party will reveal the magic behind two unforgettable properties designed by the world-renowned firm. Participants will engage in botanical and architectural discovery, while enjoying fine wines provided by Trippers & Askers, and a gastronomical meal by Acme Hospitality.

Guests will also enjoy a presentation by Susan Chamberlin, editor of the new book *California Eden: Heritage Landscapes of the Golden State*. Each guest will take home a signed copy of this publication, which features magnificent properties, including Lotusland and one of the historic Montecito estates on the tour.

**Tickets for this fundraiser are \$2,000 per guest (\$1,750 tax deductible). Reservations are required. All proceeds benefit the Garden. For more information or to reserve space, please contact Samantha Lloyd-Knauf, Manager of Annual Giving at 805.324.8425 or [development@lotusland.org](mailto:development@lotusland.org)**

**A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SERIES SPONSOR**



Whittier Trust private wealth management services guides families through multiple generations—protecting and enriching a family’s legacy through diligence and integrity while educating the family’s future generations about their stewardship and the opportunities it encompasses.

HOSPITALITY PARTNER



## Call for Volunteers

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR VIBRANT VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY** and take an active role in interpreting our natural environment and the extraordinary plant species we care for. As a volunteer, you'll help nurture this remarkable Garden while advancing our mission to educate, inspire, and connect people with the beauty and importance of nature. From guiding visitors to assisting with education programs, volunteering is a chance to immerse yourself in this living sanctuary. Volunteers are essential to protecting this unique ecosystem, and we offer benefits, including appreciation events. We accept applications year-round.

Apply by November 10 to join our November 19 Garden Guide training session and December 10 to join a 10-week January Docent Training program. Your dedication keeps the Garden growing!



**Apply to Volunteer Today!**

*Thank you for being a vital part of our community!*

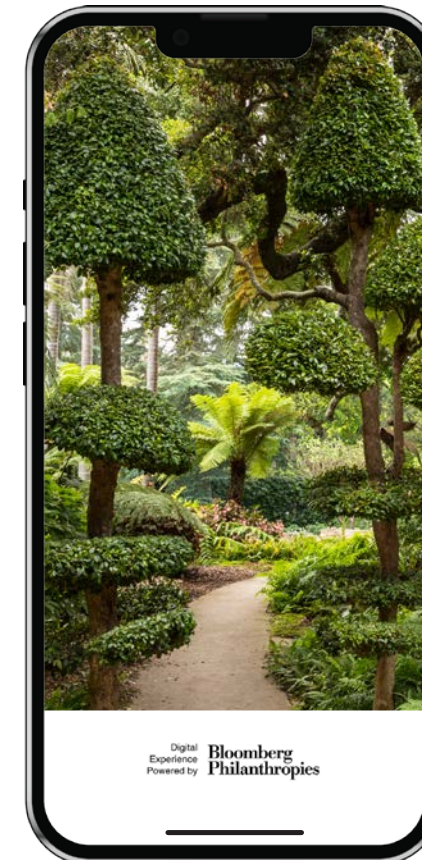
PHOTOS: Volunteer continuing education tours.



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**THIS SEASON, WE'RE EMPHASIZING THE PROFOUND CONNECTION** between wellness and nature through the Lotusland digital guide, available via the Bloomberg Connects app. Guided by Dr. Vivian Valentin, Co-founder and Executive Director of Kind Mind, this 10-minute meditation is an invitation to immerse yourself in mindfulness, whether you're surrounded by the beauty of our Japanese Garden, your own garden, or even from the comfort of your living room.

At Lotusland, we believe that nurturing oneself and deepening our connection to nature is vital to overall well-being. This meditation session is one of the many ways we encourage you to engage with the natural world, fostering a sense of peace and presence that can be carried with you wherever you go.

Download the Bloomberg Connects app to access the Lotusland digital guide today. Whether you're preparing for an upcoming visit or seeking a moment of tranquility in your day, the guide offers a versatile way to stay connected with the calming and restorative elements of Lotusland.

## WISHLIST 6-Person Cart

**LOTUSLAND IS IN NEED OF A SIX-PASSENGER CART** to assist with transporting guests at our events. One of our current carts, now over twenty years old, is showing its age—it no longer charges properly, and replacement parts are becoming obsolete. These carts are essential for ensuring that all guests, especially those with mobility needs, can fully experience the beauty of the Garden. We are looking for support to fund a new electric cart to continue providing this valuable service.

**Please contact [development@lotusland.org](mailto:development@lotusland.org) to contribute toward this wish.**



# Announcing A New Namesake Fragrance: *Sacred Lotus*

LOTUSLAND IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF **SACRED LOTUS**, the latest limited-edition fragrance in our signature collection created in collaboration with Heretic Parfum. Inspired by the breathtaking annual bloom of the lotus flowers in Lotusland's Water Garden, this fragrance captures the beauty of one of our Garden's most revered symbols. The lotus bloom, which occurs from June through August, is a spectacular moment each year that embodies renewal, purity, and grace.

*Sacred Lotus* was crafted by renowned perfumer Douglas Little in Heretic's Los Angeles-based atelier. The fragrance blends blue lotus absolute with ylang ylang, jasmine sambac, tuberose, and orange flower absolute. As the creamy white florals settle, a verdant base of Javanese vetiver and sheer white musk emerges, creating a balanced and evocative scent that mirrors the vitality and serenity of the lotus.

In her memoir, Madame Walska wrote about the soul-stirring energy of California and the deep connection she felt to the lotus flower, which became a profound symbol of her own spiritual journey. *Sacred Lotus* honors her legacy, inviting wearers to experience a sense of serenity and transformation.

Available in the Lotusland Garden Shop and online at [lotusland.org](https://lotusland.org).



VISIT ONLINE  
SHOP NOW



## THIS HOLIDAY SEASON Give the Gift of Membership!

SHARE THE MAGIC OF LOTUSLAND WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY by gifting a membership. From individual and family memberships to the philanthropic Patron Circle, each offers Member benefits year-round. Whether you are treating yourself or someone special, a Lotusland membership is a meaningful gift.

Call our membership services team at 805.969.3767 ext. 115, to order a gift membership, which is in a beautiful presentation folder, ready to deliver.

# Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

May, June, and July 2024

## THE LOTUS SOCIETY

### NEW LOTUS SOCIETY MEMBERS

Lou Scolnik & Joy Masoff

### LOTUS SOCIETY DONATIONS

Anne & Bill Dewey  
The Estate of Richard Ross\*

## GRANTS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION FUND

Julie & Roger Davis

### MEDIA & MARKETING

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### SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

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Hermitage Santa Barbara

## EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAMS

### EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Coeta and Donald Barker Foundation  
Manitou Fund

## GIFTS FOR THE GARDEN

Whitney Atwater - *In honor of Lily & Stewart Shining*  
Rachael Bissig - *In honor of Mitch Opalski*  
Janet Caroline Brown  
Glynis Bryan  
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Robert P. Godwin - *In recognition of Mr. & Mrs. J.P. Godwin*  
Karin Groteluschen  
Robin Hennessy  
Janklow Foundation - *Directed by Angela Janklow*  
Stephen King & Jay Oppenheimer  
Vicki King & William Nash  
Jessie Kornberg - *In recognition of Rebecca Anderson*  
Conni Mattingly & Robert Olson  
Linda May - *In recognition of Mary Ta*  
Lynn Montgomery  
Leslie Morgenstein  
Alicia Myers  
Stacy & Bryan Palbaum - *In honor of Scott & Ashley Adelson*  
Arthur J. & Paulette Posch  
Gwen & Brian Potiker  
Andrew Powell  
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Anthea & Robert Scott  
Dawn Seymour  
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Victoria Porter Strickland - *In honor of Mari & Hank Mitchel*  
Michael Theobald  
Amy & Tim Tyson  
Nick & Patty Weber  
Jason Yardi  
Russell Zink & Sean Callaway

## EVENTS

### GARDENS IN PARADISE

Pat & Ron Caird  
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## IN-KIND DONATIONS

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Nancy and John Vasi

\*All the donations acknowledged above are gifts of \$100.00 or more between May - July 2024.



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# Fall 2024

For more detailed information about upcoming events, see page 12-13 or visit [Lotusland.org/events](https://lotusland.org/events).

**Exceptional Plants!**  
Saturday, October 5

**Cartier Talk and Tea at El Encanto**  
Monday, October 21

**Art Class in the Garden with  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art**  
Saturday, October 26

**Mattei's Tavern**  
Sunday, October 27

**A Day of Wellness at Lotusland -  
Palma Colectiva**  
Sunday, November 10

**Community Access Days**  
Wednesday, November 6  
and Thursday, November 7

**Gardens in Paradise**  
Wednesday, November 13

**Members Shopping Day**  
Saturday, November 30

## 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. Explore [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 one month in advance of your visit for best availability.

## SEASON ENDS IN NOVEMBER

Lotusland will close for regular public tours on Friday, November 15 and re-open for the 2024 Season on Wednesday February 12, 2025.

**2025 reservations will open early January.**

Special events and limited opportunities for Members continue throughout the closed season.

**Visit [lotusland.org](https://lotusland.org) for availability.**