

# Seen Around Town

## Birdsong

by Lynda Millner

Lotusland had their 28th celebration and summer soirée titled Birdsong and recommended no feathers be worn. Cute! There was a flock of 500 guests who began the afternoon with epicurean hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and exceptional wines followed by dinner on the Grand Lawn. Co-chairs **David M. Jones** and **Joseph Marek** want us to know, "Birds are a vital part of a healthy habitat and Lotusland supports nearly 100 species."

On the way to the Great Lawn there

was a contemporary art installation by artist **Chris Doyle**. Around another corner was a ballerina dancing. And birdhouses you could bid on that had been crafted by architects from across the nation. Indie folk artists **Devendra Banhart** and **Gregory Rogove** gave a special musical performance.

**Geoff Green** kept the bidding going for the live auction. **Carole Ridding** from Silverhorn donated a one-of-a-kind pendant with an explosion of diamonds and sapphires that retails for \$21,500. Carole said, "The pendant is an homage to Madam Ganna Walska's love of rare colored gems, her dramatic

Eric Nagelmann,  
Mimi Michaelis,  
Carole Ridding, and  
Dan Bifano at the  
Birdsong event



style, and unique vision." There was also a Rosewood Miramar Beach staycation in the Ambassador suite and more items to bid on inspired by the Garden.

All of this effort goes into the garden, named one of the 10 best in the world and supported by local folks who care. Lotusland has a groundbreaking sustainable horticulture program focused on nurturing a balanced ecosystem and teaching others how to create a dynamic partnership using organic materials. Lotusland also has a collection of rare and endangered species.

Lotusland is a living classroom for people of all ages. It serves thousands of students from 80-plus classrooms in more than 50 Santa Barbara County schools. There is no charge to them. Our support preserves this oasis of culture and landscape artistry set amidst



Lotusland co-chairs Joseph Marek and David M. Jones



Artist Chris Doyle  
with Lotusland  
Executive Director  
Rebecca Anderson  
and co-chair Joseph  
Marek