



An Asian Woodland  
in the  
Valley of the Moon

# The Quarryhill Quarterly

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George Forrest 1873-1932

## Plant Hunting Now and Then

The Trials and Tribulations of a Plant Hunter  
Bill McNamara, Executive Director

The life of the Plant Hunter is often romanticized, and rightly so, with all the travel to far and exotic regions together with dramatic scenery and indigenous people having little contact with the west. There is nothing

quite like wandering the countryside in search of plants and the excitement of finding something new or different. But for many of our predecessors, it was a harrowing and difficult endeavor, fraught with danger.

Picture this: it's your first expedition and you're off to China. You've been studying and analyzing dried specimens for two years and you know that China has, by far, the richest temperate flora in the northern hemisphere, maybe in the world. So you're excited about what lies ahead. After the long and arduous journey there, you find your way to a small mountain village and hook up with a couple of French missionaries. You find that their knowledge of the area and the people is invaluable. Just as you're ready to begin your search for plants, tragedy strikes. Tibetan bandits attack. The missionaries are killed along with most of your staff and many villagers. You flee alone and bury your boots in a streambed to avoid leaving large tracks. You spend the next eight days running by night and hiding by day, mostly in the rain with little food. At one point you wade in icy water up to your waist for over a mile and, at another, poison arrows narrowly miss your head as they pass through your

hat. You even step on a bamboo trap and the sharpened cane pierces all the way through your foot. Finally you find a friendly village and they escort you to safety.

This actually happened in 1905 to George Forrest, a well-known plant hunter from Scotland, on his very first expedition. Seemingly unperturbed, he stayed on and managed to collect hundreds of plants, many of which were new to cultivation, and dozens of which became important ornamentals. Forrest made a total of seven expeditions to China. During his last expedition in 1932, after which he planned to retire, his life was cut short with heart failure.

Plant hunting continues to this day although the travel is faster and easier, and the bandits fewer. The emphasis has also changed. The earlier goal of searching for ornamentals has been superseded by conservation. Extensive habitat destruction around the world has caused the extinction of hundreds of plant species and tens of thousands more are threatened with extinction this century. This crisis has created an urgent need to document plant species in the wild and to collect seeds and plants for conservation in *ex situ* programs at seed banks and botanic gardens. It is curious that the ornamentals that have made it into our gardens, through our devotion to their beauty, have in many cases secured their long-term survival. For many of the others their fate depends upon an increased awareness and understanding of the role they play in their native habitats as well as any possible value they might provide for us, be it economical, medicinal, or ornamental. This awareness and understanding begins, in great part, with plant exploration.

Quarryhill's plant hunting expeditions have been, thank goodness, without many serious obstacles or dangerous encounters. Ours have included roads that were closed from avalanches or bad vehicle accidents, inclement weather, and steep mountains. The most dangerous aspect on all of

## Lilies of Quarryhill

"In late June and July it is possible to walk for days through a veritable wild garden dominated by these beautiful flowers."

– E. H. Wilson, *China ~ Mother of Gardens*

Lilies grace our garden with their elegance at a time when our many shrubs and trees have finished their spring flowering. Their stems rise up through our perennials and low shrubs as if to greet you at the edge of our pathways throughout the garden. The pleasing colors, shapes, and fragrance of their flowers cool the senses during the intense heat of our summers. As the leaves wither on their stout stems in the fall they remind one of the fleeting nature of life. But as the pods open and the seeds scatter in the wind one is also reminded of the bounty and renewal that the next spring will bring.

Of the more than ninety species of lilies in the world, about half occur in China and Japan. Almost a third of the world total occur in the three provinces of Sichuan, Yunnan, and Xizang (Tibet) in China. This region is considered to be the major world center of distribution for the genus *Lilium*. We have been fortunate to explore this part of China on numerous occasions. Seeing lilies in their natural habitat has been instrumental in our success at cultivating them. Almost always, we found them growing in full sun on rocky, fast-draining, steep mountainsides. Moreover, they always occurred in areas of relatively high summer rainfall followed by a dry winter.

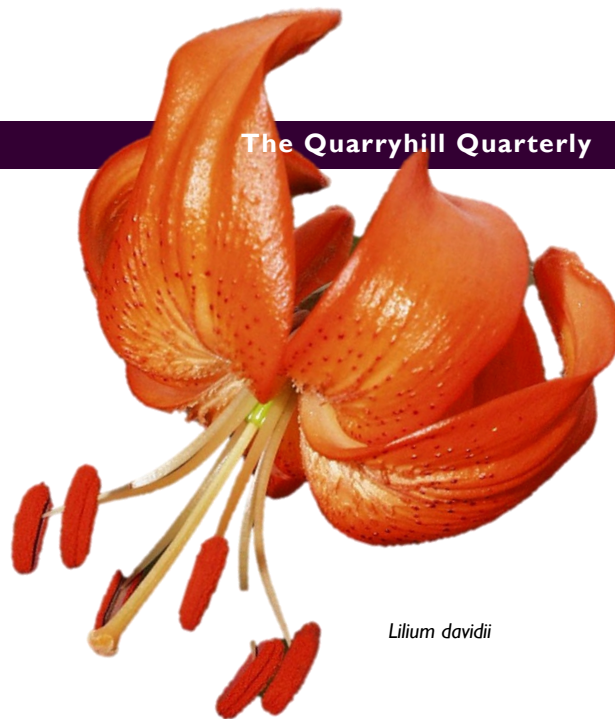
The lilies at Quarryhill begin blooming in May with the magnificent white trumpets of *Lilium leucanthum*.

*Leucanthum* means "white flowered". The robust stems grow four to seven feet tall with six to ten sweetly scented large flowers. In June, the deep orange, black-spotted *Lilium davidii* are the next to display their elegantly recurved tepals.

## Plant Hunting *Continued from page 1*

our journeys has been the driving, especially the drivers penchant for passing on blind curves. One of the first phrases I learned in Mandarin was *Qing man man kai* (please drive slower).

But I have had, on more than one occasion, the Chinese version of Montezuma's Revenge. This is not pleasant and especially maddening when sleeping in a tent at 12,000 feet in Tibet. I've climbed a few mountains in torrential downpours in northern Japan. Once we had to duck for cover under a Chinese army supply truck to avoid golf ball sized hailstones in Tibet. I've nearly stepped on deadly snakes a few times in Sichuan. There is one snake in China that they call the 5-step snake (when you are bit, you die after your fifth step, if you are lucky enough to make it that far). I've pulled off far too many leeches from my bleeding ankles in Sichuan and Yunnan. While crossing a slippery log bridge on a mountain at 10,000 feet I fell



*Lilium davidii*

This lily is named after the French missionary Père Armand David, its first western discoverer. As the *Lilium davidii* fade, the choice pink trumpets of *Lilium japonicum* rise up in late June with nodding delicate trumpets on stems about three feet high with one or two flowers, growing on mountain slopes up to an elevation of 3,400 feet in southern Honshu, Japan. Sadly, of all our lilies, only this one lacks vigor and is not regenerating by offsets or bulblets.

Next, a flurry of lilies arrives at the end of June, beginning with the highly fragrant *Lilium regale*, with its white trumpet flowers and yellow throats. This lily has a very limited natural range along the Min River in northern Sichuan and was first introduced in 1903 by E. H. Wilson, the famous English plant hunter, despite the bulk of his collection rotting in the ship's hold en route to America. Dashing from an avalanche during a later expedition in 1910 to recollect this lily on the steep mountainsides along the Min River, his leg was broken in two places and did not set right, leaving him

*Continued on page 4*

into the icy stream below completely drenching myself. I've fallen out of a few trees and fought off monkeys with my walking stick. In Muli, a Tibetan town in southwestern Sichuan, a crazed Tibetan tried to stab us with his sword. We were only the second group of westerners at that time to arrive in Muli since the revolution and most of the town had gathered to greet us. I've been awakened in the middle of night when a room down the hall was on fire at a remote outpost. There was no electricity and the drunken manager had fallen asleep with candles burning on his bedside table.

These are, however, all normal adventures for people that love travel and enjoy the great outdoors. The next time you wander the paths of Quarryhill, ponder for a moment what it took to bring the seeds here and how fortunate we all are to enjoy the splendor that Quarryhill has become.

## Come to the Garden!

As Sara Oldfield, our speaker at the ill-fated Spring Celebration, remarked, at least the *Acer pentaphyllum* are content! And indeed, while the late rains did fall on our parade, the garden is enjoying the prolonged season, and rewarding us with an incredible display of blooms, not to be missed. There are a few other things you won't want to miss either:

**July 9, 2011** 10 - 3 pm. Our **Summer Plant Sale** will offer more than 150 species to choose from! It is free and open to the public, though admission will apply to those non-members who wish to explore the garden.



### Cocktails in the Garden

Celebrating the Rare and Exotic  
Friday, August 26, 6 - 8 pm  
\$75 members, \$100 non-members

An evening in the late summer garden introducing Quarryhill's esteemed advisors, with music & featuring local food and wine

### Quarryhill Botanical Garden

12841 Sonoma Hwy, Glen Ellen, CA  
[www.quarryhillbg.org](http://www.quarryhillbg.org), 707-996-3166

**August 28 - 30 Plant Exploration & Importation Symposium** co-hosted by the American Public Gardens Association. Discussions will range from the history to the current tools, benefits, and goals of plant exploration. More information is listed on page 5, or can be found at the APGA web site at [www.publicgardens.org](http://www.publicgardens.org). Call Quarryhill at 707-996-3166 to register with the member discount.

**September 11** Our annual **Medicinal Plant Walk** is led by Peg Schafer of the Chinese Medicinal Herb Farm, and Sean Fannin of Traditional Health Arts.

**September 14** The **Fall Garden Tour** promises to inspire and delight as we gain rare access into the private gardens of the Vadasz family and Rancho Meneiro.

**September 17** This year's **Music in the Garden** will feature Plan Be.

Please check our web site at [www.quarryhillbg.org](http://www.quarryhillbg.org) for more details, "like" Quarryhill on Facebook, or register for email updates to stay in touch between newsletters.

## Tour the Gardens of England

You are invited to join Bill McNamara on a unique tour featuring the gardens of Southern England sponsored by Quarryhill Botanical Garden. The tour begins in Windsor with a private tour of Savill Woodland Gardens, Frogmore, and Windsor Great Park led by the Keeper of the Great Park, Mark Flanagan. Following we will explore the Royal Horticultural Society test gardens at Wisley, with time to peruse the excellent book store. A highlight will be a private tour and dinner at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, hosted by Tony Kirkham, Head of the Arboretum. Our journey continues south to Dorset and the fascinating sub-tropical gardens at Abbotsbury and Forde Abbey, a garden built around a medieval monastery.

We will visit numerous exceptional gardens including a VIP tour of colorful Exbury, containing Lionel de Rothschild's famous collection of rhododendrons, Sissinghurst Castle, Wakehurst, Great Comp, and Nymans. We will visit well-known designers' gardens such as John Brookes' unusual Denmans and Christopher Lloyd's exuberant plantings at Great Dixter. The tour dates coincide with the Chelsea Flower Show. There will be an optional stay in London with tickets on "Members Only" day.

Accommodations are in atmospheric country inns known for their excellent cuisine. The tour is planned for a small group. There has been a lot of interest in the tour and we expect it to fill quickly. Bill would be happy to answer any questions you might have about the tour and Sterling Tours is taking reservations - (800) 976 9497 or [sterling1@cox.net](mailto:sterling1@cox.net)

## Sally Jean MacBride

Long time friend, supporter, and board member of Quarryhill, Sally Jean MacBride, passed away April 14, 2011 at her home in Woodside. Sally was a close and dear friend of Quarryhill founder, Jane Davenport Jansen. Jane looked up to Sally for inspiration, guidance, and her vast wealth of plant knowledge. As a child, Sally lived in Hong Kong, the Philippines and Oregon, and attended the University of California. After studying voice and piano in Rome she returned to California and began a long and happy marriage to Robert Boude MacBride. Sally created a beautiful garden in Woodside full of rare and exquisite plants that was featured in numerous publications. She was especially fond of fragrant plants, flowering trees and bulbs. Recognized as one of the great horticulturists of her time, she was a lifetime member of the Governing Board at Filoli Center, where she established the Friends of Filoli support group and other education programs. Sally was also very involved with the San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum and The Garden Club of America. She was truly a fountain of knowledge and willing to share her vast experience in an unassuming way with everyone. We will always remember her soft sweet voice, her caring eyes, and her warm kind smile.

## Lilies of Quarryhill *Continued from page 1*

with one leg slightly shorter than the other. For the rest of his life he suffered from what he called his "lily limp". The fragrant *Lilium brownii*, with its large rosy purple trumpets, white inside, was named in 1835 after English nurseryman F. E. Brown after being cultivated for centuries in China for its edible bulbs as well as for medicine. The dainty turk's-cap *Lilium duchartrei*, also introduced by Père David, displays white, red spotted flowers and was named after Pierre Etienne Duchartre, a French professor of botany. The stems of *Lilium sargentiae* are crowded with bulbils in the axils, with large, white, highly perfumed, six-inch trumpets with yellow throats. Named after the wife of Charles Sprague Sargent, the first director of the Arnold Arboretum, this lily was also introduced by E. H. Wilson in 1903, from Sichuan, China.

July begins with the giant, ten-inch long, pure white blossoms of *Lilium auratum* ("ornamented with gold") sporting golden-yellow bands dotted with ruby spots, long cultivated in Japan and widely used in hybridization. In contrast, the light yellow, lantern-shaped blossoms of *Lilium lophophorum* ("wearing a crest", so named from the fringes along its nectaries) are small and delicate, growing two per stem. This lily occurs at very high elevations to 15,000 feet in Sichuan, Yunnan, Gansu, and Xizang (Tibet).

August brings the curious, orange *Lilium henryi*, with dense whisker-like papillae, a dark stripe at the base of each tepal, and as many as fifteen blossoms per stem. Augustine Henry, its namesake, was an Irish plant explorer who first introduced this lily from China. Stems of the orange tiger lily, *Lilium leichtlinii* var. *maximowiczii*, rise over six feet, topped with large racemes of up to thirty, dark purple spotted turk's-cap flowers. Named after botanists Max Leichtlin and Carl Maximowicz, it is native to the mountains of Japan, Korea, north-eastern China, and far-eastern Russia. The huge, stunning and very fragrant flowers of *Lilium speciosum* var. *speciosum* ("splendid" or "brilliant") interrupt the sea of orange with strongly reflexed tepals of bright pink dotted with carmine spots. This lily is found in southern Japan and southeastern China and was first introduced from Japan in 1830. Finally, the wonderful, towering stems, some over eight feet tall, of *Lilium formosanum* ("from Formosa", now Taiwan) arrive at summer's end, with gorgeous white, six-inch trumpets, as a crowning season finale. Like an encore performance, some of them keep blooming into December.

More recent additions to the garden include: *Lilium callosum*, rarely cultivated and native to lower elevations of East Asia, with deep orange petals recurved backwards to form a complete circle, revealing pollen-laden anthers of deep brick red; *Lilium dauricum*, vermillion red with purple-red spots and, rarely, yellow claws, reminiscent of the tiger lily and possibly the first East Asian lily to have reached western gardens; *Lilium tigrinum* (also named *L. lancifolium*), the renowned tiger lily of China, Japan, and Korea, widely cultivated for its edible bulbs and medicinal uses. "The Flower which Turns its



*L. leichtlinii* var. *maximowiczii*

Head to See its Offspring" produces bulbils in its leaf axils, thus setting it apart from the very similar *L. leichtlinii* var.

*maximowiczii*, with recurved tepals of vermillion-orange color and dark purple spots; *Lilium hansonii* has been planted at Quarryhill, but is not yet established, and we still hope to add this ravishing beauty to our collection. This strongly fragrant lily prefers light shade, unlike its sun-loving cousins, and hails from Ullung Island in Korea. Its brilliant yellow, thick and fleshy tepals curve away and curl in at the edges, displaying large brown spots on the inner surfaces. With a generous four to twelve flowers per stem, this lily should make quite a stunning addition to the garden in future years.

Lilies have been cultivated for thousands of years and remain a religious symbol in many parts of the world. They have been grown for food and used in medicine. Mostly, though, they are sought after for their beauty. Hikers delight in their mountain splendor and gardeners in their extraordinary charm. Because of their vigor and propensity to multiply, we have successfully spread many of our lilies throughout the garden. When strolling through the garden during the summer months, one can't help but admire the grandeur of these remarkable plants. I like to think of ours at Quarryhill as a tiny remnant of that magical place called Eden.



From left to right, *L. lophophorum*, *L. duchartrei*, *L. henryi*



## Quarryhill Volunteer Corps

Each time we print this tribute to our volunteers, the list grows, and now as it closes in on one hundred active volunteers, they outnumber staff here ten to one. Volunteer help extends to every corner of our operations, from construction to office administration, events to education, and as docents, they are the face of the garden. I'm afraid I can't write a sentence beginning "without their help" because I just cannot imagine how it would end. We extend our deepest thanks to each of you for sharing your time, grace, and talents.

## Plant Exploration and Importation

A symposium co-hosted by Quarryhill and the American Public Gardens Association, August 28 - 30, 2011

**Peter Raven**, Missouri Botanical Garden  
*Plant Exploration & Conservation*

**Stephen Blackmore**, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh  
*Jade Dragon: the story of the RBGE in China*

**Tony Kirkham**, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew  
**Mark Flanagan**, Windsor Great Park  
*A Window on the Golden Age: Wilson in eastern Asia*

**Thomas Daniel**, California Academy of Sciences  
*Importance of Plant Collections: Kinds, Protocols & Uses*

**Andy Hill**, University of British Columbia Botanical Garden  
*Digital Gathering and Mapping of Field Collection Data*

**Tim Torbett**, CITES, USDA, APHIS, PP&Q  
**Shannon Jarman**, USDA, APHIS, PP&Q  
*USDA Rules and Regulations*

**Sara Oldfield**, Botanic Gardens Conservation International  
*Ex situ Conservation of Plant Species*

**Anthony S. Aiello**, Morris Arboretum  
**Kang Wang**, Beijing Botanical Garden  
*20 Years & Going Strong - The Past, Present & Future of NACPEC*

**Panayoti Kelaidis**, Denver Botanical Garden  
*From the Wild to Commerce: Mechanics & Ethics*

Art Acosta  
Carol Anderson  
Irene Angé  
Kathleen Aspenns - pictured  
Christine & Scott Barnes  
Liz Barnes  
Mimi Batchelder-Brown  
Cheryl Belitsky  
Mary Boehm  
Carol Brant  
Oralia Briggs  
Alan Brubaker  
Harlan Bryant  
Kathleen Bunte  
Matt Burgesser  
Michele Burton  
Mary Kate Carter  
Stephanie Clark  
Gay Collins  
Stephanie Correia  
Eda Crosby  
Barbara Daly  
Peggy Dombeck  
Marie Duca  
Pat & Steve Edelstein  
Jim Ethridge  
Jeanette Evans  
Mary Fazekas  
Flora Field  
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Lisa Floyd  
Christie Flum  
Sherry & Michael Franchetti  
Forrest Freund  
Peter Fritsch  
Reggie Gasaway  
Helen Giss  
J. Claire Green  
Kate Hale  
Yvonne Hall  
Steven Hightower  
Diane Jacobson  
Diane Johnson  
Tucker Johnson  
Ames Kanemoto  
Linda King  
Candace Krout  
Liz Landreth  
Lou Leal  
Josie Lee  
Beryl Li  
Alan Marcillet  
Juan Martinez  
Jenny Maybee  
Rosemary McCreary  
Mary McDevitt  
Joyce McNamara  
Millicent Meade  
Dan Milhollin  
Mike Morrison  
Dorothy Nickolai  
Jefra Parlett  
Janet Parmer  
Ann Peden  
Martha Pine  
Genoa Provencio  
Gaius & Alan Robinson  
Janet Sanchez  
Karen Simmons  
Shaun Simmons  
Robert Smith  
Marianne Sonntag  
Pam Spears  
Charmaine Starks  
Cathy & Doug Stevenson  
Teresa Suarez  
Stephanie Sugars  
Adie Varin  
Gerrie Walker  
Nina Wang  
Gail West  
Julia & Philip Wilkinson  
Cameron Wolfe, Jr.  
Tina Yesson

# QUARRYHILL BOTANICAL GARDEN

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William A. McNamara

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# Events Calendar

To register, send payment to:  
Quarryhill Botanical Garden  
PO Box 232, Glen Ellen, CA 95442  
707-996-3166, [info@quarryhillbg.org](mailto:info@quarryhillbg.org)  
[www.quarryhillbg.org](http://www.quarryhillbg.org)

|           |       |   | Member / Non-Member Fee |
|-----------|-------|---|-------------------------|
| July      | 9     | Plant Sale                                  | Free                    |
|           | 16    | Third Saturday Docent Tour                  | Free / \$10             |
| August    | 20    | Third Saturday Docent Tour                  | Free / \$10             |
|           | 26    | Cocktails in the Garden                     | \$75 / \$100            |
|           | 28-30 | Plant Exploration and Importation Symposium |                         |
| September | 11    | Medicinal Plant Walk                        | \$10 / \$15             |
|           | 14    | Fall Garden Tour                            | TBD                     |
|           | 17    | Music in the Garden - Plan Be               | TBD                     |
|           | 18    | Third Saturday Docent Tour                  | \$10 / \$15             |
| October   | 16    | Third Saturday Docent Tour                  | Free / \$10             |