



# The Quarryhill Quarterly

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Winter 2012

## Twenty-five Years and Growing

Bill McNamara, Executive Director

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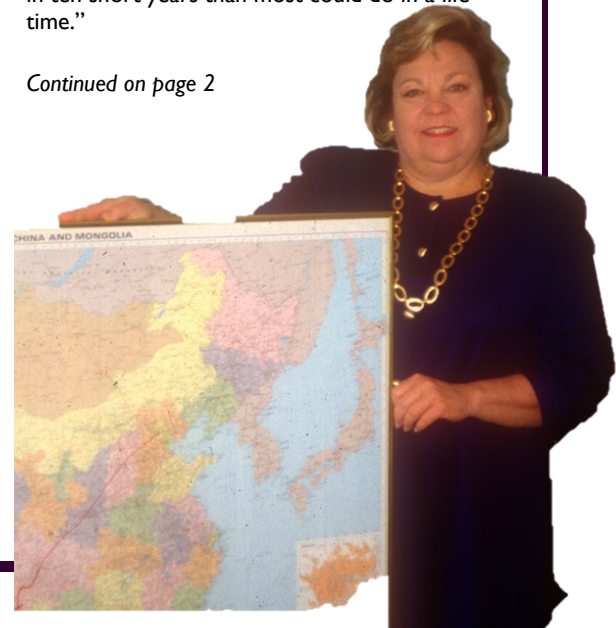
As Quarryhill celebrates its Silver Jubilee, it's difficult to not utter the cliché, "where did the time go?" Yet in Quarryhill's case, it's easy to see where it went. It's in a 60 foot tall oak tree from Yunnan, a lotus pond with its huge pink flowers in mid-summer, waterfalls and bridges, and sprawling roses and colorful dogwoods from throughout China. It's in towering white trumpet lilies, winding paths that meander the garden, rare magnolias, and prayer flags with a magnificent view of Sonoma Valley. It's in our volunteers and staff that keep the garden alive and vibrant. It's in the thousands of children that thrive in Quarryhill's education program. It's in our directors and supporters that keep us on solid footing. All of this and so much more should give us pause to reflect on all that has been accomplished and reason to celebrate this important milestone.

Time is such a complex notion with its seemingly contradictory linear and cyclical nature. Linear because everything has a beginning and an end, and cyclical because the way we count moments is by the spinning of the earth with its days and nights, and our journey around the sun with its seasons. This has been happening for so long - longer than anyone can remember - that we take it for granted. Our scientific investigations tell us that it has been happening since long before we walked the earth. Milestones, therefore, act as markers within the linear and cyclical march of time giving perspective and meaning to our brief lives. We celebrate milestones for a variety of reasons, but perhaps the most important is to acknowledge perseverance and dedication.

It was the perseverance and dedication of Quarryhill founder Jane Davenport Jansen that made Quarryhill possible. Those of you that knew her well, and probably most of you that only knew her as an acquaintance, clearly recognized that Jane was what we call "one of those larger than life individuals." She was intelligent, funny, stubborn, strong-willed, and loved to laugh. When she began Quar-

ryhill, she wasn't really sure where it would go or what it would become, but she was determined to do it right. Jane personally funded the entire operation for its first thirteen years and her estate continues to provide the lion's share of the garden's operating costs. Quarryhill was the love and joy of her life. Her enthusiasm and knowledge seemed to grow exponentially each year as new acquisitions sprouted from the expeditions and exciting plants flowered for the first time in the garden. In the early days of the garden, occasionally, notable horticulturists, plant lovers and the like would drop in to see what was being created here. Word had spread in the relatively small world of botanic gardens and arboreta that a certain Jane Davenport Jansen was funding seed collecting expeditions to Asia in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the Howick Arboretum. She delighted in the attention the garden was given by professionals, knowing that she was doing something important for plants and horticulture. Commenting on the legacy of Jane Davenport Jansen, the late gardener extraordinaire and founder of the Garden Conservancy, Frank Cabot said, "Jane did more for horticulture in ten short years than most could do in a lifetime."

*Continued on page 2*



## Twenty-five Years and Growing *continued from page 1*

That perseverance and dedication has continued through the efforts of the staff, volunteers and directors. Now after twenty-five years and looking at all that the garden has accomplished, certain things stand out.

- Twenty-five acres of a beautiful and mature garden
- More than eight thousand accessions
- Thirty seed-collecting expeditions
- A membership of eight hundred and growing
- A Quarterly Newsletter
- Thriving education program for local schools
- Professional propagation facility
- An *ex situ* conservation program for an endangered maple
- Envious relationships with Chinese institutions and individuals
- A major source of plant material for scientific research

Gardens, by their very nature, are always growing and changing, a constant reminder of not only the impermanence of everything, but also a reminder of the continual renewal of life. In this rapidly changing world of ours where natural areas

are under siege from the ever increasing activities of humans, knowledge of plants both in the wild and in cultivation is essential if we hope to conserve them for future generations. Prominent botanist and past Quarryhill board member Bruce Bartholomew, of the California Academy of Sciences, told me a few years ago that many of the plants here at Quarryhill simply won't be seen in the wild in 50 years.

Quarryhill will no doubt look quite different in another twenty-five years. We hope our gardens outlive us and, in Quarryhill's case, we can be assured that this will be true thanks to the perseverance and dedication of our founder and the many friends and supporters of Quarryhill. I'm sure that I don't need to tell any of you that Quarryhill is a magical place; most gardens are. As our natural world shrinks, gardens like Quarryhill are becoming ever more important for the beauty, solace and inspiration that they provide. Jane understood this better than most. On more than one occasion she told me that lots of people give to the museums, opera, and ballet, but almost no one does anything for plants. This interest of hers quickly became a passion. And fortunately for all of us, Jane's passion became Quarryhill.

We look forward to you joining us in the garden to celebrate this milestone throughout the seasons during our twenty-fifth anniversary.

## An Honor and a Responsibility

Quarryhill inducted into the NAPCC Multisite Magnolia Collection  
Christine Walker

The North American Plant Conservation Consortium, or NAPCC, is a network of botanical gardens and arboreta working to coordinate a continent-wide approach to plant conservation. They tackle that huge task one genus at a time, assessing collections according to their holdings of endangered plants within that genus. The process of identifying, auditing, and finally inviting a garden to participate is a long and thorough one, and Quarryhill was recently recognized as one of only a handful of participating sites in the NAPCC Multisite Magnolia Collection. Coming on the heels of the BGCI ranking, which identified Quarryhill's magnolia collection as one of the top ten most significant for conservation in the world; this inclusion speaks volumes about Bill McNamara's efforts to represent magnolias at Quarryhill. Remarkable under any circumstances, it is truly a credit when you take into account that Quarryhill only has Asian magnolias, and is being compared to institutions with specimens from around the world.

In his site evaluation report, our auditor remarked that Quarryhill has the "most unique species with an IUCN status," referring to the International Union for Conservation of Nature which identifies and protects endangered species around the globe. He goes on to say that "the standards of their accessions are phenomenal" and that the "existing collection and staff expertise on the genus are superlative". This status is

more than a simple accolade, however; it is a commitment to an ongoing conservation program to build, define, share, and protect Quarryhill's magnolia collection.

Magnolias are of particular concern in this larger extinction crisis because nature has not dealt them an easy hand. They are notoriously poor pollinators, and grow as individuals far removed from one another. Flowering early in the year also makes the tender buds susceptible to freezing. If the flower buds survive ice and rain, are not harvested for use as medicine (for which the bark and buds are prized) monkeys like to eat the tepals. Each of these factors, along with habitat loss and climate change, has made the magnolia species a focus of conservation efforts globally and nationally, and the staff at Quarryhill are honored to be recognized "among a prestigious group of gardens and arboreta that have committed themselves to the conservation and care of specific plant collections curated at the highest professional level."

Although they bloom into the summer, many magnolias are at their peak in March and April, and one particularly rare example, the *Magnolia zenii*, has set buds and promises to bloom for the first time in 2012, so be sure to bring your umbrella and your camera for an early spring visit.

## Thank You, Year-end Donors

The generosity of the Quarryhill community, during the holiday season and always, is an inspiration. Thank you to all who gave in response to our appeal in the closing months of 2011. Your gifts ensure that endangered species are studied and conserved, that children forge a connection with the natural world, and that Quarryhill charges ahead into our next quarter century with the resources to enact our directors' bold vision.

Paul Anderson  
 Christine & Scott Barnes  
 Mrs. Elizabeth Hogan Bechtel  
 Cassandra & William Bernstein  
 Katherine Stark Bull  
 Stephanie Clark  
 Betsy B. Clebsh  
 Stephanie & Tony Correia  
 Eda & Robert Crosby  
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 Tom Rohlen  
 James A. Rundel  
 Robert N. Smith  
 Barbara Solomone  
 Luise Strauss  
 Gregory Stubbs  
 Christine Walker  
 Pat Walicke  
 Tanis Walters  
 Julia & Philip Wilkinson  
 Fran & Cameron Wolfe, Jr.

## Upcoming Events

# Horticulture

Explore the nature of our connection to plants

2012 Lecture Series

Plants are ubiquitous. They are woven into the fabric of life. Our clothing, our shelter, our diets, our oxygen, our art, our medicine, and indeed, our future. We are excited to welcome three speakers who will explain their work studying and conserving plants around the world. Please join us as we find the intersections between plants and humans, and with them, yet more reasons to advance the conservation, study, and cultivation of the flora of Asia.

Feb 12 **Zsolt Debreczy**, Research Director  
 International Dendrological Research Institute  
*Conifers Around the World*

Mar 15 **Peggy Schafer**, Owner Chinese  
 Medicinal Herb Farm, *Cultivate to Conserve*

April 19 **Dr. Peter Fritsch**, Curator,  
 Botany, California Academy of Sciences  
*The California Academy of Sciences in China*

Lectures will be held in the Visitor & Education Center at Quarryhill Botanical Garden and begin at 5:30 pm. Guests are welcome to stroll the garden before the event. Members \$10, Non-members \$15. Space is limited, please call to reserve.



## “Some of the Trees Smelled like Cotten Candy”

Corey Barnes, Education Coordinator and Nursery Manager

Quarryhill's elementary education program is about to turn four!

If you've visited the garden on a spring or fall Tuesday or Thursday in the past three years, you may have shared the arboreal acreage with dozens of elementary students. Whether you encountered them on the trail or just heard them from a distance, I'll bet their presence was apparent. With exuberance for being out of the classroom and in an open space, many of our young visitors, explorer totes in hand, come close to bouncing off the trees.

Focused principally on fourth and fifth grade classes in the greater Sonoma Valley, this program has hosted schools from as near as Dunbar Elementary here in town to Alexander Valley Elementary in Healdsburg. We've quickly grown from educating 250 students in 2009 to a projected 1,100 students from 25 schools in the current academic year. With an approximate adult visitorship of 5,000 to the garden in 2011, this addition is no small number. This large endeavor, like many others, is principally executed by Quarryhill volunteers. Twenty of these educators are at the core of the program. Their hours working with students in the garden will surpass 500 in this academic year alone.

The program's curriculum addresses both California State Content Standards in Life and Earth Sciences and key environmental issues that Quarryhill Botanical Garden is well-positioned to address, including the global extinction crisis, the importance of plants to the environment and the resultant importance of plant conservation and preservation. Students receive an "explorer bag" on their two-hour garden tour, including an educational journal outlining aspects of the curriculum such as the plant life cycle, the water cycle, images of past and modern plant hunters, a page of vocabulary words, and several blank pages for creative writing and drawing. Plant sample collection bags, hand lenses, and scissors accompany each volunteer. During each visit, Quarryhill Gardener Guillermo Calderón demonstrates transplanting and discusses soil preparation, working with root systems, fertilizing, and mulching. Students also learn about seed germination with fava beans at different growth stages and discuss the unique process of photosynthesis. Students are offered fava bean seeds, a pot, potting medium, and a challenge: germinate their seeds and grow the resulting plants to produce a flower, take a picture of their flowering plant with their smiling face, have their teacher send it back to us, and they'll receive a prize. What's the prize, you ask? Well, we can't tell you unless you earn it! Some educators take their group of 6-10 students on a "botanical expedition" and examine the garden's specimens from this viewpoint. Collecting plant parts such as flowers, fruits, leaves, and stems, students observe the plant kingdom's myriad forms, colors, textures, and scents. Through sight,

smell, touch, and even sound, our young visitors explore and make discoveries in our outdoor, living classroom.

We are able to offer this educational field trip free to schools, including bus fee reimbursements for those schools that express financial need. The cost of one bus can range from \$90 to over \$300 per visit, varying with the school's proximity to the garden. Approximately 50% of the visiting schools in the 2011 academic year have expressed transportation funding need, and 45% of these schools are listed as Title I. Many of the schools in need could not participate without this funding. Schools defined as Title I under the U.S. Elementary and Secondary Education Act include a student body of which at least 40% are eligible to receive free and reduced-price lunches. Financial support for our education program has been made possible by two generous grants from the Ellman Fund, by individual support from Mrs. Elizabeth Hogan Bechtel, and by in-kind donations from both Staples Inc., and Stephanie and Jack Clark. Quarryhill's endowment also supports this program. Ongoing financial assistance is crucial for the continuation and expansion of the program and is regularly sought.

Second in value only to our living collection itself, Quarryhill's outreach efforts are our main asset to our community. Whether it be hosting this elementary program, docent-led adult tours, guest presenters and workshops, our intern program, or participating in public speaking engagements, utilizing this living classroom by researching and disseminating what its specimens and their history offer and teach us is a mission that encompasses "advancing the conservation, study, and cultivation of the flora of Asia" in its entirety. In *Botanic Gardens: Modern-Day Arks*, Sarah Oldfield, Secretary-General of Botanic Gardens Conservation International, writes: "Perhaps the single most important thing that botanic gardens can do is to promote the importance of plant diversity and spread the message of plant conservation so that more people become more involved in the task." Stephen Blackmore, Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, states in *Gardening*



Elementary Educator Michael Franchetti leads a 4th grade group. Parent, even grandparent, chaperones become students as well.

## Elementary Education

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*the Earth: Gateways to a Sustainable Future* that “the education programmes of botanic gardens are generally expanding to exploit their great opportunity to engage with visitors, making them powerful engines for social change.” We cannot begin this endeavor early enough.

In a time of such topics as “nature-deficit disorder”, coined by Richard Louv in *Last Child in the Woods* to describe the “human costs of alienation from nature”, it would seem of the utmost importance to welcome and inspire as many children—in fact, as many guests of all ages—as possible. As our future environmentalists and naturalists (actually, regardless of the profession they will choose) they will inherit this world. It is our responsibility to ensure that they are aware of the natural living world around them and all that it provides us, ultimately including, of course, *our* life. Through such education programs as Quarryhill’s and those of our neighbors at the Glen Oaks Ranch and the Bouverie Audubon Preserve, we are working toward Louv’s “nature-child reunion”. The children do leave the garden inspired.

From the students:

“I learned that you can make paper out of a tree.”

“I also want to say that my plant is growing so I’m so happy.”  
“Thanks for teaching me about the rosehip, all those kinds of roses, maple tree, and the paper tree!”

## Welcome, Rama!

Recently arrived from England, Rama Lopez-Rivera is Quarryhill’s new intern during the months of December and January. Rama’s love of Asian plants and passion for collecting has brought him to many destinations in the Far East, including NW Japan where he has worked with the Niigata Prefectural Botanical Garden, as well as the islands of Yakushima and Tsushima off southern Japan. He has also visited Taiwan where, with assistance from the Taiwan Forestry Research Institute, he collected seed of endemic rhododendron species. Last summer, Rama was in Sichuan exploring the species-rich summits of three famous peaks, comprising “the Sacred Triangle” of Emei Shan, Wawu Shan and Wa-Shan, which were also explored over a century ago by the great explorer and collector Ernest Wilson. Rama is the first foreigner since Wilson, more than a century ago, to reach the summit of all three.

“I enjoyed learning genus and species from you when we were looking at the Acer Henryi”

From a teacher:

“My students loved their tour of Quarryhill Botanical Garden! In the days after we returned, I had them talk and write about: what they heard, what they saw, what they touched, and what they learned. It was wonderful to hear them talk about the plants, the butterflies, learning about planting, how plants grow, the feel of the bark, the smell of the leaves, etc. They loved receiving their own seed to grow, and many have told me how well their plants are growing at home! Many of my students live in small apartments, so the experience to walk in nature is so rewarding for them. I appreciate your time to organize docents who are so well-informed, and love working with children. If I could, I would take them twice a year! Thank you for providing this wonderful and enriching experience for our students.”

It is our goal to continue expanding this program to reach additional grade levels, facilitate return visits, and add a summer program. To do this we have to secure funding and recruit elementary educators. If you are interested in learning more about this program, or would like to visit the garden on a tour day to see the program live, please contact us. **Our annual Volunteer Open House will be on Friday, Feb. 17 from 5 to 7 pm. Come meet us and listen to volunteer testimonials about this and our other volunteer programs. Our Docent Training course will follow on all five Saturdays in March, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm, in Quarryhill’s Visitor and Education Center.**

Rama has most recently worked with Quarryhill Advisor and Keeper of the Gardens at Windsor Great Park in England, Mark Flanagan. At Windsor, and the renowned Savill Garden within, he helped to maintain a large and diverse ornamental woodland with significant collections of rhododendrons, magnolias and camellias. Here at Quarryhill, he will be assisting with garden surveying and the updating of plant tags as well as assisting in the nursery with propagation and maintenance.

We would like to welcome Rama and express our sincere appreciation for assisting Quarryhill this winter with the ongoing work of maintaining our valuable collection.



Rama collecting in the wilds of Taiwan

# QUARRYHILL BOTANICAL GARDEN

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Advancing the Conservation, Study, and Cultivation of the Flora of Asia

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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
February	12 HortiCulture - Zsolt Debreczy <b>Conifers of the World</b>	\$10/ \$15
	17 Volunteer Open House	Free
	25 Self-guided garden tours are free on the 25th of every month in our 25th anniversary year!	
March	2-4 Magnolia Society International Conference	Inquire at 996-3166
	15 HortiCulture - Peg Schafer <b>Cultivate to Conserve - Chinese Medicinal Plants</b>	\$10/ \$15
	17 Third Saturday Docent Tour	\$5/ \$15
	25 Self-guided garden tours are free on the 25th of every month in our 25th anniversary year!	
	5 Saturdays New Docent Training Class	Inquire at 996-3166
April	19 HortiCulture - Dr. Peter Fritsch <b>The California Academy of Sciences in China</b>	\$10 / \$15
	21 Earth Day	Free
	25 Self-guided garden tours are free on the 25th of every month in our 25th anniversary year!	
June	2 Spring Celebration featuring guest speaker <b>Warren G. Roberts</b> , Superintendent Emeritus of UC Davis Arboretum	TBD
	16 Third Saturday Docent Tour	\$5/ \$15
	25 Self-guided garden tours are free on the 25th of every month in our 25th anniversary year!	