By providing a unique garden of great beauty, we encourage people to think about the fragility of our natural world and the important role plants play in our lives and the environment.
AN ARK FOR ENDANGERED PLANTS

Having had the good fortune to travel to New Zealand last October, I was struck by the beauty of the place, the rolling bright green hills dotted with sheep and cattle, with occasional clumps of trees and shrubs and a superb winding coast line with countless bays. While there, we took the opportunity to visit some of New Zealand’s native vegetation and learned to our dismay that despite the very small human population, very little natural flora is left. What is left, however, the people of New Zealand are doing an excellent job of protecting, and they are educating the public about the importance of conserving their native flora and fauna. A particular highlight for me was seeing the huge kauri trees, *Agathis australis*, especially the carefully protected Tāne Mahuta, the largest kauri tree in New Zealand with a girth of more than 45 feet and towering 168 feet above the forest floor. Sadly, there are few remaining kauri trees of any size.

Earlier in October, I was in China and, as in my past travels there, saw huge areas being lost to urban sprawl, agricultural expansion and the construction of dams, all from the pressure of too many people. While pondering these two very different situations, with the flora of both under siege, I was reminded of the now famous phrase, “Houston, we have a problem.” Yes, we have a problem, a grave crisis underway throughout our planet that is causing the extinction of dozens of plants and animals every single day and almost all of it is caused by the actions of too many people. But the good news is that there are efforts around the world to protect remaining wild habitats and that many botanical gardens and zoos have taken on the important role of being Noah’s Arks for endangered plants and animals. Quarryhill is one such garden, with perhaps half the species in the collection endangered or threatened in their wild habitats. For some, they will probably be extinct in the wild in a few decades. But it does give me hope when I see children walking our trails and learning about the importance of plants with our dedicated volunteers, and when I see adults touching an endangered plant, admiring its beauty and pondering its rarity. If enough people, young and old, can experience the magic of gardens like Quarryhill, sense the value and importance of the world of plants, and recognize how completely dependent we humans are on a rich and diverse flora, then perhaps we can turn the corner and reverse this unfortunate trend. Yes, there is hope and it can be found here at Quarryhill.

Bill McNamara, Executive Director

2013 CHINA EXPEDITION

Last September, we led an expedition to western Sichuan focusing on three target plant groups: maples, magnolias and roses. I was joined by Dr. Wang Kang from the Beijing Botanical Garden. This was one of the most difficult trips so far, due to the terrible, condition of the roads. The past summers rainy season was one of the worst on record with the result that many of the roads were destroyed or badly damaged by landslides. Nonetheless, we were able to make several important collections including maples, roses, primulas, ash, and iris. Unfortunately, the magnolias were without seed, most probably due to the heavy summer rain. Also, as habitats disappear and the few remaining magnolias become fragmented, it is more difficult for them to be successfully pollinated. Monkey habitat is diminishing, as well, and they relish the magnolia flowers whenever they can find them, destroying their ability to produce seed.

We also managed to visit two sites with the endangered *Acer pentaphyllum* and were able to ascertain that construction of the dams is to proceed in the next few years, which will certainly cause the extinction of this species in the wild.

STAFF EDUCATION

In 2013, Quarryhill staff attended four different conferences. Last June, Jennifer Kesser, our Office Manager, went to the American Public Gardens Association’s annual conference in Phoenix, with the title: "Garden Evolution: Adapt, Evolve, & Engage". More than 650 individuals from around the world attended the conference.

Corey Barnes, our Education Coordinator and Nursery Manager, attended two conferences, one in March and the other in October. The first was held in Las Vegas by the Sentinel Plant Network. Attended by about 40 botanical garden staff from the western US, the purpose of the meeting was to introduce attendees to the network and its agenda, and to educate people of all ages on the importance of identifying plant pests in their surroundings. The second conference was held in Baltimore by the North American Association for Environmental Education and was attended by over 1,100 environmental educators from nineteen countries. The organization’s focus is to advance environmental education and support its educators in Canada, the United States and Mexico.

In late October, Executive Director Bill McNamara traveled to New Zealand where he presented on Quarryhill’s *Acer pentaphyllum* ex situ conservation program at the 5th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Dunedin. More than 300 delegates from 43 countries were represented at the Congress. These conferences have proven to be very valuable for networking, keeping abreast with new developments, and sharing ideas and information with individuals from similar institutions.
During 2013, Quarryhill continued to fulfill its mission of contributing to scientific research and promoting widespread cultivation of its collection through the sharing of plant material to scientists and gardens worldwide.

Locally, Quarryhill has long partnered with UC Berkeley by exchanging seeds, cuttings and plants, resulting in many years of mutual support. Elaine Šedlack, in particular, director of the UC garden’s Asian section, has been a driving force behind this cooperation, providing Quarryhill with numerous selections from their prolific nursery as well as receiving countless Quarryhill accessions used to supplement their impressive collection. Among other US gardens and nurseries with which Quarryhill has recently exchanged plants and seed are Far Reaches Farm in Washington state and Rare Find Nursery in New Jersey, both specializing in rare and unusual species.

Further afield, the Guizhou Botanic Garden in China was provided with seed from a large number of Quarryhill’s Chinese roses last year. For a major Chinese garden to request a comprehensive group of species native to its own “back yard” from an institution on the other side of the globe is certainly a testament to the exceptional value of Quarryhill’s collection.

Due to the rarity and singular beauty of many Quarryhill specimens, special requests for select auction plants have increased over the years, with recent gifts delivered to the National Arboretum in Washington, DC, the JC Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh, the National Garden Clubs, Inc., and Powell Gardens in Kansas City. In addition, Seed Exchanges (or Indices Seminum), such as that offered by the Cal Hort Society, have frequently benefited from Quarryhill’s diverse collection.

Lastly, Quarryhill continues to provide researchers with foliar material for DNA extractions used in systematics research, the study of taxonomic relationships. Last year, for example, Quarryhill supplied Forsythia and Alnus samples to the Université Paul Sabatier in Toulouse, France.

**Tribute & Memorial Gifts**

Engraved bricks and pavers in the Chinese Heritage Rose Garden, benches in the Woodland Garden, and certain trees in the gardens are all places where you can recognize someone important to you with a memorial or tribute. Call 707.996.3166 or visit our website at www.quarryhillbg.org for more information.

**Award from National Garden Club**

Last year, the National Garden Clubs, based in St. Louis and the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world with 190,000 members, conferred its highest honor, the Award of Excellence, on Quarryhill Executive Director Bill McNamara. The organization’s mission is to provide “education, resources and national networking opportunities for its members, and to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility.” The award was received in recognition of contributions to understanding and conserving the temperate flora of Asia by means of collecting expeditions to China, Japan, Nepal and Taiwan. These efforts have focused on rare and endangered flora and have also helped to bridge communication and cooperation between East Asian and western botanists and plant enthusiasts.

The National Garden Clubs is deeply involved in numerous charitable efforts, both botanic and philanthropic, including memorial beautification to honor US service people, flower shows, recycling programs for youth, creation of low-maintenance, sustainable gardens through Habitat for Humanity, and relief work such as clean water restoration in impoverished areas of Haiti and Latin America. Quarryhill’s director has been duly honored in receiving this meritorious distinction.

**Dedicated Staff**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Griselda Alcaraz</td>
<td>Office Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corey Barnes</td>
<td>Education Coordinator &amp; Nursery Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guillermo Calderon</td>
<td>Gardener</td>
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<td>Salvador Calderon</td>
<td>Garden Superintendent</td>
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<td>Crystal Helmer</td>
<td>Marketing Director</td>
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<td>Howard Higson</td>
<td>Head of Horticulture</td>
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<td>Jennifer Kesser</td>
<td>Office Manager</td>
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<td>Baldomero Larios Moya</td>
<td>Gardener</td>
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<td>Jumildo Martinez-Ortega</td>
<td>Gardener</td>
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<td>William McNamara</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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<td>Amado Tinoco</td>
<td>Gardener</td>
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With the wonderful success of May’s Wild Collections fundraiser, we have been investing in both improving and expanding our educational efforts. Much focus and expense has been directed toward improving the infrastructure we need to successfully offer our current program.

These funds have helped us to create an August volunteer training session dedicated to elementary education. Our elementary program is primarily administered by a group of passionate, dedicated volunteer docents. To maintain a low ratio of students to docents, an important key to individual attention and material retention by our young visitors, volunteer recruitment to bolster their numbers is a high priority for us. This successful session yielded a healthy number of docents for the fall elementary season. Funds will also advance our February-March, 2014 training session, coming soon. Your support has also allowed us to advance the knowledge of our staff on the subject of environmental education, so that we may continue to improve the methods used in this program.

Your generous support for this important program has afforded us a greater ability to advertise and recruit. Most significantly, we have created a presence at farmers’ markets in both Sonoma and Santa Rosa. Our return on investment for these endeavors has been strong, as a majority of the recruits entering the elementary education training session in August were first engaged at one of these two venues.

In the 2013-2014 academic year, we have expanded our elementary program to host 10% more students than in the 2012-2013 academic year, with more than 1,100 students attending our fall and spring sessions. We are proud to continue to offer this program free to all students, including covering bus expenses. This fee, for a single, 2.5-hour class tour, can average close to $200. With more than 50% of our visiting classes coming from Title I schools, many could not afford to participate in our program if it were not for our coverage of this expense. We funded transportation for 60% of classes visiting last fall, and will fund close to 70% of total classes expected during this academic year.

Additionally, we are constructing seven new picnic tables to be installed permanently in the garden, including one that will be wheelchair-accessible and installed in our ADA-accessible loop. These tables create a very helpful environment for outdoor learning. They provide an appropriate, comfortable space for journal work and sketching as students learn about the form and function of plant parts collected from around the garden.

While the main focus for this income has been the development of our elementary education efforts, we also have taken the opportunity to expand our growing facility needs in the nursery by installing close to 400 square feet of new...
benches. These benches will be used by nursery interns from both Santa Rosa Junior College and from abroad, for horticultural learning.

To expand the reach of our elementary education program, we are currently exploring two new concepts. First, we are discussing creating a summer day camp. This camp may be pursued in collaboration with some of our neighbors, who host complimentary environmental education programs for elementary students. The second concept, one that excites us very much, is the formation of an on-site children’s garden. This garden would allow us to engage students at a younger age in a stimulating environment tailored specifically to facilitate their outdoor learning.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS
Traveling Vanishing Tree Exhibit

We depend on plants for food, fuel, shelter, a wide variety of products, and for beauty and solace. Fossilized plants in the form of coal and oil power our society and nearly half of all medicines in current use are based on substances derived from plants. But most importantly, plants are necessary for the oxygen in the very air we breathe.

While it may appear as though there is an abundance of plant life surrounding us, and indeed there is, trees and plants around the world are perishing. Estimates of forest loss vary by geographic location, but there is no doubt that all of our forest ecosystems, and the unique plant and animal life therein, are in severe danger.

While the total number of tree and plant species at risk is not exactly clear, the estimates that exist are alarming. A study in 2010 by the IUCN, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the Natural History Museum, London estimated that one in five, or 20% of the world’s plant species are dangerously rare or threatened with extinction. And the situation is just as dire for trees – according to the World List of Threatened Trees, 10% of all known tree species are endangered, as well. Current documented extinction rates are nearly 1,000 times higher than the rate at which species have been naturally going extinct for the past 65 million years.

The trees under threat today offer immeasurable benefits and the extinction of a plant species has ripple effects on other species. Learning more about endangered trees and their conservation, and taking action to protect them, is critically important.

In an effort to help educate the public, we are displaying the traveling exhibit Vanishing Acts: Trees Under Threat from the Morton Arboretum. This exhibit takes a compelling look at various threatened and endangered trees and includes 17 displays, located throughout the garden, each highlighting a different endangered plant. By making people aware of these plants, our hope is that we will better protect them.

The exhibit will be here through early May, 2014 before moving onto another conservation-minded organization in the USA. To date, this exhibit has been in a number of famed public gardens and Universities, such as Brookgreen Gardens, Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, Holden Arboretum, ForMar Arboretum, The Gardens at Southern Illinois University, and the University of Guelph Arboretum, to name a few.
It costs nearly $3,000 per day to maintain and operate the 62 acre property and our programs.

We are both fortunate and thankful for the foresight and legacy of founder Jane Davenport Jansen, but endowment income covers only a fraction of what is needed to properly care for our unique Sonoma Valley treasure.

We need the support of members and donors to continue our work wild-collecting seeds, conserving endangered plants, supporting scientific research and educating adults and children on the importance of plants and their habitats to the earth and humans.
Major Donors

We sincerely thank all donors and contributors, with special thanks to the following major donors who contributed $500 or more during 2013:

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Wildflowers Garden Club
William & Inez Mabie Family

Consider the Legacy you’ll leave
Shape the future now

It doesn’t take great wealth or a large estate to positively influence the future or organizations in which you believe and have faith. Legacy giving is effective and beneficial at all levels.

If Quarryhill is important to you because of its beauty, serenity, and the work it does in preserving plants, slowing the loss of biodiversity, and educating the conservationists of the future, please consider leaving a legacy gift to the garden in your will or trust.

Supporters who make planned or legacy gifts become members of the Magnolia Circle, Quarryhill’s legacy society which honors those who help insure the garden’s continued survival. Call 707.996.3166 for more information.
The Gift Shop is Thriving &
A New Discount For Members Only

Under the careful eye of manager Millicent Meade, along with help from Lori Ross, Irene Angé and other volunteers, Quarryhill’s Visitor & Education Center quietly transitioned into a unique and well-stocked gift shop in 2013. Full of distinctive gifts for all ages, it is not only a venue for purchasing interesting and unusual gifts, but continues to act as our Visitor & Education Center with Millicent, Lori and Irene greeting visitors to Quarryhill and answering their many questions. Beginning in 2014, all Quarryhill members will receive a 10% discount at the gift shop. We hope you will find the time to stop in soon to say hello and see what the gift shop has to offer. We think you will be pleasantly surprised.

Quarryhill’s Star Volunteers

This year, Quarryhill is proud to honor three Star Volunteers: Pat Edelstein, Lori Ross, and Jefra Parlett. All three epitomize the perfect volunteer and have approached their volunteerism with dedication and enthusiasm, each in her own way. They are always willing to assist with a variety of tasks in the administrative office and all three are always there, with a smile, to volunteer at all of Quarryhill’s events. With Pat’s management of our flower surveys and work in supervising other volunteers in the nursery, Lori’s management of our Visitor & Education Center, training other volunteers, and even writing the V & E training manual, and Jefra’s very active involvement with our Education program, leading youth and adult tours, and participation on several committees, all three go above and beyond the call to duty in their volunteerism. The board of directors and staff cannot thank them enough for all they do for Quarryhill.

Coming Soon to Quarryhill

Sculptor Bruce Johnson’s Art Exhibit

Bruce Johnson is an internationally acclaimed, local wood sculpting artist who has been crafting art for over 30 years. His work has been displayed in a number of locations including: Bank of America’s World Headquarters, the Green Music Center at Sonoma State University, Vineyard Creek Inn, Paradise Ridge Winery, and the California Shakespeare Festival. Additionally, Bruce’s work has been featured in well-known Hollywood films and will soon be displayed at Quarryhill.

Mark your calendar for the 2nd Annual Wild Collections, Expeditions for Education Fundraiser on Saturday, May 17th!
To buy your tickets call 707.996.3166