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.

FOR MORE INFO., CALL (707) 996-3166 OR VISIT WWW.QUARRYHILLBG.ORG
Director's Comment

What a year!

2017 started with a bang with almost daily torrential downpours in Sonoma Valley and record snowfall in the Sierras that thankfully put an end to our string of dry years. Fortunately, Quarryhill has good drainage and Sal, our Garden Supervisor, and his crew did an excellent job of keeping the creeks, ditches, and culverts cleared. The wet winter ushered in a spectacular spring with one of the best flowerings in the garden’s history, perfect for celebrating Quarryhill’s 30th Anniversary. Summer rolled by at the garden in typical fashion with informative lectures by Jared Diamond and John Harte, though other parts of our country suffered destructive hurricanes. October arrived with its predictable good weather and then on Sunday night, October 8th, all hell broke loose.

And so began a night of terrible wind and horrific fast moving fires that ravaged Sonoma and Napa counties. Many only had minutes to flee and thousands lost their homes. It initially appeared that Quarryhill might have been lost, as well. Despite Glen Ellen being under mandatory evacuation, one of our staff hiked in on Tuesday to see what, if anything, was left of Quarryhill. To everyone’s relief, he found the garden mostly intact, though he did put out some spot fires that were still burning. Remarkably, other than smoke damage, all of the buildings at Quarryhill were unharmed. However, the fire surrounded Quarryhill and caused significant damage to our fence, irrigation system, and destroyed many plants on the perimeter of the garden, including much of the Acer pentaphyllum conservation grove. Because we had no electricity for ten days, many dessicated plants in the nursery had to be discarded. We were able to get water to most of them before the power came back on, with buckets from the pond, but for many it was too late. We also lost three weeks of revenue (entrance fees, gift shop purchases, docent-led tour fees, and income from a canceled lecture by Andrea Wulf), as we were under mandatory evacuation for twelve days and stayed closed for another week as we cleaned up debris and repaired sprinklers, finally opening on October 28th. It took almost five weeks after the fires started to have our phone lines and our internet restored. During that time, we relied on personal cell phones and hotspots for communication.

Quarryhill had miraculously escaped major damage from the devastating fires. As a gesture to the community at large, we decided to waive the entrance fee through the end of last year. We wanted to share our tranquil garden with those who needed a place to go for a peaceful, pastoral experience as the community united to rebuild our beloved Valley of the Moon. Our hope was that the garden would serve as a place for healing and refuge.

Despite the fire-scarred surroundings, Quarryhill is being enjoyed daily by many visitors of all ages. Many of them have come just to see how the fire stopped at our fence line and almost all have thanked us for the gesture of opening free of charge through the end of last year. When one is deep in the interior of the garden, it is hard to believe that much of the surrounding land has dramatically changed. Quarryhill remains a green oasis in a sea of ash as we wait for the renewal of spring.
Quarryhill Shares Material for Research & New ARS Species Rose Garden

As an integral part of the garden’s mission, Quarryhill contributes seed and other plant material to gardens and plant scientists throughout the world for scientific research and widespread dispersal of its collection.

Plant material requested this year to augment living collections included seeds or cuttings of Corylus, Emmenopterys and Aster species, sent to England, Japan and UC Davis, respectively, and tip cuttings of Tsuga chinensis were sent to the US National Arboretum in Washington, DC to conduct taxonomic studies.

Of particular note in 2017, The American Rose Society enlisted Quarryhill to provide rose cuttings of practically all its wild-origin taxa to help in the development of a new ARS Species Rose Garden located at Edisto Memorial Gardens in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Cuttings of about 25 rose species have thus far been delivered to horticultural facilities at Florida Southern College (which, fortunately, was spared major damage as Hurricane Irma swept almost directly through that area last September), under the direction of distinguished rosarian Malcolm Manners, where the material is under propagation. Additional cuttings of taxa still slated for the new garden will be prepared and delivered this spring.

An Index Seminum is a list of seeds from a botanical institution that are available upon request, usually at no cost, for use by other institutions and individuals to supplement inventory, perform scientific research, or simply add interest and variety to a collection. Over the years, Quarryhill has received wild-origin seed from: Chiba University, Kyoto University, Ofuna Botanical Garden and Toyama Botanic Gardens in Japan; Chollipo Arboretum and Jeju Botanical Garden in South Korea; Beijing Botanical Garden and Shanghai Botanic Garden in China; the Taiwan Forestry Research Institute; and the Magnolia Society International, among others.

Over the past year, Quarryhill has also been the recipient of plants from outside sources, including rare magnolias from University of Florida professor Gary Knox and (via Tony Aiello of the Morris Arboretum) Chinese ecologist Lu Rongsen, unusual rose cultivars from local rose enthusiast Don Gers and Southern California rose breeder Ping Lim, and assorted bare root shrubs from the US National Arboretum.
Education Update

Every spring and fall, fourth and fifth grade students from across Sonoma and Napa Counties visit Quarryhill through our education program. In 2017, more than 900 students from 33 classes learned about the plant life cycle, the role of plants in our daily lives, and the conservation efforts of Quarryhill from our trained docents while exploring the garden. Four new volunteers became education docents after completing our annual docent training in the summer. Our continued success with this program can be credited to our hard-working and dedicated volunteers, with many thanks to our generous donors, as well.

Appreciation Due

There is no more deserved praise and thanks from Quarryhill staff than that owed to the team of loyal volunteers that continue, year after year, to make all of the garden’s programs and events both possible and successful. Their diverse talents are readily apparent and valued as they enthusiastically navigate the many roles they play, including education and tour docents, nursery workers, cart drivers, event helpers, and ambassadors for Quarryhill’s outreach efforts to the community. Thank you, volunteers, for your commitment and loyalty; Quarryhill could not thrive and grow without you.

QUARRYHILL’S VOLUNTEERS

Tireless Supporters, We Thank You Profoundly

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Irene Ange
Kathleen Aspenns
Carla Barber
Cyrie Barnes
Liz Barnes
Sandi Bonacini
Melissa Bowman
Stephanie Clark
Gay Collins
Steve Corey
Mary Courtney
Kathleen Dahlman
Pat Decker
Peggy Dombeck
Karen Easton
Pat Edelstein

Joe Ferguson
Michael Franchetti
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Carolyn Greene
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Richard Hersh
Linda Hohmann
Mark Hullinger
Joanna Kemper
Paul Kenny
Kathleen Koran
Lou Leal
Josie Lee
Cathleen Leonard
Dawna Leong

Mike Lyons
Sheila Mackintosh-Sims
Pat Marsh
Jennie Mast
Rosemary McCreary
Amanda Merriss
Jessica Miller
Marcella Moloshco
Eric Moon
Mike Morrison
Corrine Neal
Margaret Neisen
Kathy Nixon
Joy Olsen
Richard Pastcan
Alan Porter
Jim Richter

Kathleen Schultz
Tom Schwartz
Carolyn Schwarz
Hema Shende
Teresa Suarez
Naomi Thorpe
Laurie Trainor
Betzy Tyler
Liz Vaughn
Ellen Wear
Ina Welker
Rose West
Julia Wilkinson
Philip Wilkinson
Tina Yesson
Pat Young
Cliff Zyskowski
5th Annual Fundraiser

With the help of volunteers, staff, board members, and the unbelievable contributions of our amazing sponsors and donors, our 5th annual Wild Collections, Expeditions for Education fundraiser was an overwhelming success!

The funds raised at this very special event go toward improving and expanding Quarryhill’s youth science education program, as well as advancing the knowledge of our staff and education docents on the subject of environmental education, so that we may further improve the methods used in this program.

We couldn’t do it without amazing supporters like you!

Speech by Samantha Myhre, Volunteers & Students at Wild Collections

Garden Fairy Entertainer

Staff Education

This year Samantha Myhre, Quarryhill’s Nursery Manager, and Neely Hart, a member of Quarryhill’s horticulture staff, attended the Sentinel Plant Network’s training for the Northwest Region held in Portland, Oregon at the Hoyt Arboretum. Over a two day training on July 11th and 12th, they learned about the economic and environmental impact of serious plant pests and diseases as well the threats in our region, host plants affected, common signs and symptoms, and the best practices for monitoring and reporting. It was a brief training that was packed with information, lab specimens, and field work related to keeping our plant communities happy and healthy.

2017 Dedicated Staff

Griselda Alcaraz
Office Assistant

Guillermo Calderón
Gardener

Salvador Calderón
Garden Supervisor

Eva Corbin
Volunteer & Event Coordinator

Jacqueline Garcia
Guest Services

Neely Hart
Horticulturist

Crystal Helmer
Marketing Director

Howard Higson
Head of Horticulture

Jennifer Kesser
Office Manager

Baldomero Larios Moya
Gardener

William McNamara
Executive Director

Millicent Meade
Guest Services

Samantha Myhre
Nursery Manager/ Education Coordinator

Corrine Neal
Guest Services

Caden Ondrasek
Gardener

Amado Tinoco
Gardener
How Our Funds Were Used:

It costs more than $3,000 per day to maintain the 62-acre property and execute our programs.

We are both fortunate and grateful 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 gem.

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

INCOME:

INCOME:

EXPENSES:

Consider the Legacy You’ll Leave

It doesn’t take great wealth or a large estate to positively influence the future of the 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, its 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 that honors those who help ensure the garden’s continued survival. Call (707) 996-3166 for more information.

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 features that can be used to 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.
MAJOR DONORS
We sincerely thank all donors and contributors, with special thanks to the following major donors who contributed $500 or more during 2017:

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Two Awards Honor Bill's Work at Quarryhill

In 2017, Bill McNamara’s work at Quarryhill was recognized with 2 prestigious awards, the Veitch Memorial Medal, given in London by the Royal Horticultural Society, and the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award, given in Alexandria, Virginia by the American Horticultural Society.

Quarryhill’s unique collection of wild-origin plants is distinguished by virtue of Bill’s annual fall fieldwork in East Asia, partnering with other collectors in the US, Europe and Asia since 1987. The garden’s copious array of specimens from China, Japan, and other neighboring countries, displayed in the garden’s naturalistic setting, is due to his lifelong efforts in providing Quarryhill with many of the rarest and most horticulturally important plants from that part of the world.

The Veitch Medal is awarded annually to one or more persons of any nationality who have made an outstanding contribution to advance the art, science or practice of horticulture. First awarded in 1870, it was named for James Veitch, Jr. (1815-1869), an industrious businessman, skilled horticulturist, and heir to Veitch Nurseries in Exeter and Chelsea, England, the largest group of family-run plant nurseries in 19th century Europe, known for their ability to rear exotic plants.

The Liberty Hyde Bailey Award, begun in 1958, is awarded annually to notable lifetime contributions in the field of horticultural teaching, research, communications, plant exploration, administration, art, business, or leadership. Liberty Hyde Bailey (1858-1954) was an American horticulturist and botanist, and cofounded the American Society for Horticultural Science. He was instrumental in founding agricultural extension services and the 4-H and nature study movements, and represented an agrarianism that stood in the tradition of Thomas Jefferson. He was also the first to truly recognize the overall importance of Gregor Mendel’s legendary work in genetics.

Congratulations are due to Bill for these lifetime achievements, and to the Quarryhill staff who, as Bill notes, rightly shares in the honor from these awards, considering the group effort that has made Quarryhill the world class garden it is today.

Star Award

Each year, the Sonoma Valley Fund holds an event to honor volunteers at Sonoma Valley non-profits by presenting them with a Star Award for their volunteer service. In past years, Quarryhill volunteers Gaius Robinson, Marilyn Smith, Steven Hightower, Rosemary McCreary, Pat Edelstein, Lori Ross, Jefra Parlett, Thora Graves, Steve Corey, Philip & Julia Wilkinson, and Ina Welker have been honored. In 2017, Quarryhill was proud to bestow this honor on long-time volunteer Gay Collins. Although she has assisted in countless ways, her main focus has been volunteering in our Education Program for 4th and 5th graders from throughout Sonoma County. A retired elementary school teacher and Master Gardener, Gay quickly became one of our most loved and skilled educators. She has told us that volunteering at Quarryhill provided an opportunity to serve in the community with meaning.

Unfortunately, the Star Award ceremony for 2017 was postponed due to the horrific fires in October. The ceremony is rescheduled for April 29, 2018. Quarryhill’s board and staff cannot thank Gay enough for all that she has done for Quarryhill.