Garden Highlights

The Summer Garden

There is perhaps no better season to behold the great variety of botanical wonders than late summer: flowers and fruits are both in abundance as their displays overlap to bring us their great diversity. From the dramatically towering *Astilbe grandis* to the tiny blue flowers of *Ceratostigma minus*, there is no summer pause for the garden’s late-flowering plants. *Patrinia* species, of brilliant yellow or pure white, and *Hemerocallis* species are plentiful, as is the ubiquitous *Incarvillea arguta*, which has reseeded profusely, garden-wide. The delicate orange flowers of *Lilium henryi* contrast with the larger, crimson and white spectacle of *L. speciosum*, and *Primula poissonii* continues to produce its deep purple flowers in the shady central areas of the garden.

*Hydrangea aspera* and *H. paniculata* both continue to impress visitors, while *Leycesteria formosa* and the delicate, lavender-colored *Desmodium* species also continue to flower late into the summer. In the Arbor, witness the unusual form and rich purple of the vining *Millettia dielsiana* flowers, as well as numerous perennials, too varied to count. The magnificent flowers of the lotus, *Nelumbo nucifera*, continue to appear, now well past their prime month of July, though their show is nearly at an end.

Fruits aplenty have begun to appear, led by the long-lasting profusion of *Cotoneaster* berries that fill the latter half of every year here at Quarryhill. Delicate, exotic *Koelreuteria* lanterns are in full display, and the bizarrely contorted, globby clusters of rosy *Magnolia kobus* fruits also appear at this time of year. Finally, rose hips of all sizes and colors, from the massive yellow and spiny *Rosa roxburghii*, to the plump, brilliant red of the crabapple-like *R. rugosa*, to the diminutive, dusky orange of *R. banksiae*, cover the garden, adding to the rich visual palette of summer treats.
Spring Fieldwork in Shaanxi by Bill McNamara

My spring scouting trip to Shaanxi was very successful and quite interesting for me, as I had not spent much time in that area before. It was far richer than I had expected and exceedingly beautiful, which surprised me as it was so close to Xi’an. I was hosted by Dr. Wang Yaling from the Xi’an Botanical Garden. She sent Dr. Bai Guoqing, who has been studying Dipteronia and Acer, to travel with me as a guide.

We spent a few days in and around Huang Hua Lin, N 33° 47.645, E 108° 52.345, at about 5,000 feet elevation. Here, there were several Acer, Cornus, Alangium, Euptelea, Spiraea, Lindera, Juglans, Rhus, Deutzia, Celtis, Carpinus, Quercus and much more. The Cornus kousa and the Deutzia albida made spectacular white splashes on the mountainsides.

We then traveled on to an area near Ning Shan, N 33° 26.342, E 108° 29.025, at about 6,200 feet elevation. Here, there was much the same flora, with at least five species of Acer, along with Staphylea, Rodgersia, Kerria, Deutzia, Tsuga, Quercus, Sorbus and much more.

We then went on to the Fo Ping Nature Reserve near Liang Feng Ya, N 33° 41.455, E 107° 54.326, at about 5,500 feet elevation. This is the furthest north panda reserve and was difficult to get permission to enter. There are said to be 67 pandas living within the reserve. It was equally rich and quite beautiful, with Tilia, Cercidiphyllum, Decaisnea, Buddleja, Davidia, Juglans, Carpinus, Salix, Quercus and much more.

This will clearly be an ideal area to return to in October for fieldwork. Dr. Wang Yaling from the Xi’an Botanical Garden will again be assisting us and will send Dr. Bai Guoqing, once more, as our guide.
Rose Conference in Beijing  
On May 20th, I gave a lecture on Quarryhill’s species roses in Beijing at a joint meeting of the 2016 World Federation of Rose Societies Regional Convention and the 14th World Heritage Rose Conference. The conference was a great success - one of the best that I have been to. The organizers went all out with beautiful gardens, the huge new rose museum, grand banquets, exquisite evening shows, and, for the most part, very good lectures. There were roses and more roses and then more roses. I was told by several people that my talk was one of the best, but I think that was only because almost all the other speakers read their lectures, whereas I had no notes and gave my talk from memory. This was understandable, though, as English was not the first language for many of the speakers, some being from Japan, Germany, France, India, Sweden, Uruguay, and, of course, China. After the conference, in the morning before going to Xi’an, I was asked to give a lecture to some of the staff of the Beijing Botanical Garden. I guess that lecture also was good as only one person fell asleep during my talk.

APGA Annual Conference  
Jennifer Kesser, Quarryhill’s Office Manager, attended the recent annual conference of the American Public Garden Association. This year, it was held in Miami, Florida from June 6th through June 10th with the theme Changing Perspectives: Planting for the Future. The conference included visits to four private estates, including Robert Fuchs’ home and garden, the Kampong and Gifford Arboretum, and Dr. David Fairchild’s 7-acre home site on Biscayne Bay, featuring many tropical fruit trees that he introduced, including many cultivars of mango, avocado, and lychee. There was also a visit to the Vizcaya Museum, the “nation’s best formal European-inspired garden,” which Jennifer said was “over-the-top beautiful!”

We try to send at least one of Quarryhill’s staff to these conferences each year as they are very valuable for meeting and networking with others and gaining an understanding of how similar institutions operate.
Our New Employees

Neely Hart
Neely was hired in March with the specific task of re-energizing Jane's Garden. Neely's work reflects her strong background in garden design and ornamental horticulture. A graduate of Humboldt State University with a degree in Environmental Biology, Neely has worked as a Nursery Manager at the Mendocino Botanical Garden and also has a strong interest in sustainable agriculture. While not originally from Sonoma County, she currently lives in Glen Ellen with her husband and son.

Caden Ondrasek
Caden, who began work at Quarryhill in April, has been a much welcomed addition to the garden staff. His background includes working as a gardener at Sonoma Mission Gardens where his love for and knowledge of plants was heightened. Born and raised in Sonoma County, Caden currently lives in Glen Ellen, only minutes away from Quarryhill. Caden has an outgoing, friendly personality, enjoys experiencing new things, and has a specific interest in small scale permaculture.

Maura
Maura started working at Quarryhill in July and is the newest addition to our Visitor Center/Gift Shop staff. A native of Santa Rosa, she currently attends SRJC where she is in the process of completing the Horticulture Program. Maura enjoys gardening, photography and hiking. She is also quite artistic and dabbles in refurbishing and repairing antiques.

The Gift Shop now has 3X more plants for sale than ever before. Come check it out!

Unfortunately, we cannot allow dogs in the garden, and we also kindly ask that you don't leave them unattended in the car.
Peter Raven Lecture Series

Quarryhill held its first installment of the Peter H. Raven Summer Lecture Series on June 25th, with Peter Raven speaking. The lecture series was named to commemorate Peter’s 80th birthday, which was June 13th. The event was at the new outdoor amphitheater, with about 70 people attending, not counting our many volunteers. It was, as expected, a great talk, though somewhat disheartening, as he clearly explained, in graphic detail, how human over-population and over-consumption of resources, and the resulting urban and agricultural expansion have led to habitat loss and fragmentation for countless species, and to global warming, resulting in an unfortunate sixth mass extinction. But he did end with promising suggestions and hope for reversing this regrettable trend.

Tony Kirkham, Head of the Arboretum at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, spoke on July 23rd, and Paul Ehrlich, Professor Emeritus at Stanford University, will speak on August 20th.

Membership & Legacy Giving

There are many benefits to becoming a member, including:

- Free admission to the garden
- Free access to nearly 300 gardens, nationwide
- Discounts at local nurseries
- First access or special discounts to garden events and workshops
- Knowing you make a difference

If Quarryhill is important to you because of its beauty, its serenity, or the work it does in preserving plants, slowing the loss of biodiversity, and educating the scientists and 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 honoring those who help ensure the garden’s continued survival. Call 707.996.3166 for more information.

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