According to World Bank estimates, more than 1.5 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that every year 33,000,000 acres of the world's forests are lost through human activities including: agricultural and urban expansion, unsustainable logging, and poor land management.

Forests provide food and habitats to approximately two-thirds of all species on earth, and habitat loss by the most conservative estimates account for loss of biodiversity at the rate of over 50 species every day, or over 18,000 species per year!

Why is this habitat and species loss important? Plants provide us with food, shelter, clothing, medicine, and the very air we breathe, which is by far the greatest carbon sink on the planet. Put simply, biodiversity loss accelerates climate change and threatens our existence. We are at the precipice of the world's sixth great extinction. Unless earth's population wakes up to this extinction crisis and begins to act more urgently, the plant life that sustains us may reach the tipping point well before the end of the current century.

The future of life on earth depends on slowing, then restoring this loss, and protecting plants and their habitats.

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.
Quarryhill conducted two plant collecting expeditions in 2012. The first expedition in June, detailed below, was to Japan, where we collected wild cherries of the genus Cerasus.

In October, 2012 we travelled to Yunnan, China for fieldwork on roses with Dr. Wang Kang from Beijing Botanical Garden. We focused on areas in northwest Yunnan around Lijiang, Zhongdian, and the Lan Cang Jiang (Mekong River) valley. With help from Dr. Wang Guoliang in Nanjing, we were able to locate several species that will be very important additions to Quarryhill’s species rose collection. We believe we already have the largest species rose collection in North America and these additions will add great significance to the collection.

Two of the collections are exceptionally noteworthy, Rosa odorata var. gigantea and Rosa praelucens, both of which have extremely large flowers for species roses. Also, Rosa odorata var. gigantea is considered to be one of the key parents of the famous China stud roses that made their way to Europe from China a little more than 200 years ago and subsequently became major influences in the development of modern roses. It was rumored by rose enthusiasts that the Yunnan form of this rose was thought to have been lost, and possibly extinct. During the expedition, we also managed to collect a few maples new to Quarryhill and several other plants of interest such as ginseng, paris, pieris, enkianthus, primrose, and rhododendron.

**Reflecting on the Last 25 Years**

This living vibrant place that we call Quarryhill never ceases to amaze and delight me. To have grown, literally, from seed into the world class garden that it now is, is nothing short of spectacular. None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the staff, volunteers, and board of directors, along with support of the many members and donors. Despite only seeing the first thirteen years of the garden, Quarryhill founder Jane Davenport Jansen’s inspiration and early leadership continues to guide us and her legacy gift continues to provide much of our support. The rapid growth of the garden and the global recognition for the conservation value of the collection has exceeded our expectations. Recent analyses by Botanic Gardens Conservation International ranked Quarryhill 9th in the world for the conversation value of our extensive collection of magnolias and 3rd for the conservation value of our exceptional collection of maples.

Sometimes I ask visitors to the garden what Quarryhill does for them. Well, here is what it does for me. It awakens something deep in me, something that grounds me, something that makes me realize how insignificant I am, but not in a way that disheartens me, rather in a way that comforts me and makes me realize how everything in the garden and in the world is connected. When I walk in the garden, I feel my long dormant toes gripping the ground, all my senses seem heightened, and different fragrances come alive as I wander the paths. I feel at home.

I often think of Quarryhill as my little piece of Eden, that magical paradise that once was our home so long ago. I often wonder what went wrong and why we were banished. Perhaps we weren’t really banished, maybe we just walked away. With our visits to and support of Quarryhill, perhaps we can begin to find our way back.

I can only imagine what will be accomplished at Quarryhill in the next twenty-five years, but I know for certain that it will be good, as the trees will continue to grow, the flowers will continue to bloom and good people will continue to be the garden’s stewards.

**2012 Plant Collecting Expeditions**

In June of 2012, Lord Charles Howick and I embarked on a journey to Japan with the goal of finding every species of naturally occurring cherry tree. Japan is particularly rich in this group of highly ornamental trees, with more than 20 species and several natural hybrids. Finding these trees required long drives and crisscrossing the mountains of Honshu, the main island of Japan.

This collecting trip, undertaken in the midst of Quarryhill’s 25th anniversary, was its own 25th year reunion for Charles Howick, myself and our good friend and guide Shigeto Tsukie, as Shigeto had been our guide on Quarryhill’s very first expedition to Japan twenty-five years ago, in 1987. Some of the trees grown from seed collected on that first expedition are now well over fifty feet tall at Quarryhill.

Despite our many expeditions to Japan and China, we have made very few collections of cherry seeds. Many species of cherry trees drop their seeds in the early summer months, well before the timing of our usual seed collecting expeditions, which occur in late September and October when the majority of plants will have ripe seeds.

The first cherry tree that we searched for was Cerasus speciosa, commonly called the Oshima Cherry. To find it, we had to take a hovercraft to the small volcanic island of Oshima southeast of Tokyo.
Full Circle in Japan  continued

The entire island had to be evacuated when it last erupted in 1986. Luckily for us, the cherries were untouched, though we saw places where huge streams of lava had flowed into the sea from the massive eruption. In the Oshima Nature Park, we came across the most impressive cherry tree that we were to see during the entire journey.

Only a few yards from the road grew an 800 year-old magnificent specimen of *Cerasus speciosa*. Despite its age, it was still producing delicious fruit. The tree had lost its main branching decades, if not centuries ago, and had layered its lower branches creating what appeared to be a grove of cherries, but which had in fact originated from the one tree.

We next drove clear across Honshu in the rain to Toyama and met up with friends from the Botanic Gardens of Toyama. The next day they took us to our next cherry, *Cerasus jamaakura var. jamaakura*, the Yamakura Cherry, which was growing on a bluff overlooking the Sea of Japan. After a couple of days in the Toyama area and finding several more cherries, we drove on to Niigata.

At the Niigata Prefectural Botanical Garden, our old friends Taiga Kuhara and Yuji Kurashige joined us and led us to a few more cherries, bringing our number of collections to over 20. We then began the long drive back across Honshu to Seiju Yamaguchi’s nursery. This legendary, hard-working man is one of Japan’s most respected and knowledgeable nurserymen. For the next few days, Seiju guided us to new locations where we made several more collections.

Our last collecting site was on and around the famous mountain, Fuji-san. Fortunately for us, we were able to find an almost completely vacant hotel with atypically large rooms on the third floor and fantastic views of Fuji-san. The space was greatly appreciated as we still had a large amount of seed to clean and separate. Also, the herbarium specimens needed to have all the papers changed and then be divided into three sets, which would go respectively to the California Academy of Sciences, Missouri Botanical Garden, and Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

On the ground floor was a large Japanese bath with equally stunning views of Fuji-san. So our final days in Japan were spent soaking in the almost too hot bath in the morning admiring Fuji-san in the distance, cleaning seeds and herbarium specimens during the day and sipping sake in the evening.

*Bill McNamara, Executive Director*

---

### Scientific Research

Quarryhill provides plant material to universities and research institutions all over the world for research. Scientific and medical researchers require scientifically documented, wild-source plant material when doing their research. Because all of Quarryhill’s plants are fully documented, many research institutions regularly request plant material - leaves, bark, berries, fruits or roots of plant species - on which they are conducting investigations.

In 2012, Quarryhill sent plant material to the following institutions to fulfill their inventory and research goals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recipient/ Institution</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Taxa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tom Cox, Cox Arboretum</td>
<td>General Inventory</td>
<td>Multiple taxa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panayoti Kelaids, Denver Botanical Garden</td>
<td>General Inventory</td>
<td>Arisaema, Iris, Primula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. National Arboretum</td>
<td>Fundraiser Inventory</td>
<td>Multiple shrubs/trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Jinshuang Ma, Chenshan Botanical Garden, China</td>
<td>DNA Analysis</td>
<td>Euonymus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaine Sedlack, UC Botanical Garden</td>
<td>General Inventory</td>
<td>Multiple taxa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Jianhua Li, Hope College</td>
<td>DNA Analysis &amp; Voucher Specimen</td>
<td>Wisteria brachybotrya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Rothlueuer, Morton Arboretum</td>
<td>Breeding Inventory, Ornamental Evaluation</td>
<td>Leptodermis, Idesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Koen Camelbeke, Arboretum Wespelaar, Belgium</td>
<td>General Inventory</td>
<td>Cerasus sargentii, Acer pycnanthum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Sinn, Ohio State University</td>
<td>Taxonomic Studies</td>
<td>Asarum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Christopher Baysdorfer, CSU East Bay</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Lilium speciosum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Clingen, Great Lakes Forestry Centre, Canada</td>
<td>Pathology Research</td>
<td>Cupressaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord Charles Howick, Howick Arboretum, UK</td>
<td>General Inventory</td>
<td>Multiple taxa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### President’s Note

With the commencement of Quarryhill’s second quarter-century, we look to the success of the past to plan the future. Wild-collcting important plants in Asia is one of the foundation stones of the garden’s mission to conserve endangered species, which will continue and perhaps even accelerate.

Availability of the garden to the public and an active promotion of tours started less than ten years ago and has seen impressive growth. This helps to fulfill another keystone of our mission, the study of this invaluable flora. We see broadening garden visitation and membership as ways to increase our outreach in making the public more aware of the worldwide extinction crisis, and the need to conserve biodiversity.

Our children’s education program started just four years ago and has grown phenomenally, to become an integral part of Quarryhill’s mission. Plans for new garden areas, as well as more ex-situ conservation groves, are well underway.

With the continued support of our donors, members, volunteers and staff, we will take Quarryhill to new heights in the coming years.

*Steven Hightower, President*
Children today are not spending as much time outdoors as previous generations and, as a result, they are growing up knowing less about nature, plants and their importance to our survival as well as issues such as conservation and sustainability.

It is clear that science and natural history education in grade schools in California is at an all-time low. According to a 2010-11 study conducted by UC Berkeley, just 10% of elementary school classrooms in California provide regular hands-on science and 40% of elementary teachers say they spend an hour or less teaching science each week.

To foster the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts and environmental stewards, Quarryhill is working proactively to engage children in the outdoors.

We invite students into the garden, and there we teach them about plants and their importance to the world. We begin to make them aware of ideas such as habitat loss, biodiversity, and sustainability. We get them out of the classroom and into the garden to see, feel, touch, and observe.

In the four years since the inception of our elementary education program, we have grown to serve over 1,000 elementary school students from Sonoma County, annually.

In the 2011-2012 academic year, we hosted 1,084 4th and 5th graders from schools across the county. They explored our 25-acre garden as “junior plant explorers”, saw planting demonstrations, participated in a demonstration of seed germination, discussed photosynthesis, and planted a seed to take home and experience plant parenting.

With support from the community and our donors, we plan to grow this program to serve many more students at various grade levels to offer them a valuable opportunity to advance their science education and coax them away from the ubiquitous screen that has come to pervade so many spaces in our lives, including our pockets. If the latter is displaced by rose hips for a time, we’ve achieved our goal.

Changing Children’s Lives — One Volunteer’s Story

My vocation is as a tutor at one of the local elementary schools. I work with students of all grades; mostly those who are struggling with school. One of the children I worked with last year had a particularly severe case of low academics and poor attitude. When I tried to work with him he would put his head on the table, tell me how stupid all of this was, and generally fight me on every front. It was very troubling to see this third grader harbor such a terribly negative outlook on school and learning, in general.

It was no big surprise this year when the fourth grade teacher in whose class I was working assigned me to help this child. Nothing had changed over the summer. He deliberately sabotaged any groups that he was working with, refused to do any of the work I asked of him, and belligerently decried his hatred of school, learning and anything that required some effort on his part.

And then the class went to Quarryhill for a tour of the garden. The day after the tour, I came into the room and saw an animated, enthusiastic student planting and caring for his fava beans. He wanted to tell me all about it, show me what he had done, and couldn’t stop talking about what he had learned. The teacher wisely glommed onto this and began to design his school work around his planting and growing. When I told him that I worked at Quarryhill and was, in fact, in charge of sending out the rewards for the students who sent in fava bean pictures, he launched into a description of what he was doing and what he planned to do. I could hardly believe this was the same child. He had found a passion and was discovering success in learning through his enthusiasm.

One beautiful warm day, he and I walked out to the garden area, pulled up some weeds and talked about what he wanted to plant next, and where they would grow best in the garden. When we returned to the classroom he came up to me and asked me if I would help him with his homework. We went out to the hall and went through the work. When he left, he turned back around and said, “Thank you, Mrs. Pine.” and gave me a warm, sincere smile. I am amazed in the change that has taken place for this child.

All of the children who go through the educational program at Quarryhill get some degree of the magic the garden has to offer. It’s for children like this one that it makes the most impact. We will hang onto as much of this positive impetus as we can and continue to promote him, but the program at Quarryhill was what got it started and I thank them for having it available to him.

Martha Pine, Tutor at Whited Elementary School and volunteer at Quarryhill Botanical Garden
Adult Education at Quarryhill takes many forms. At its core, the program is about educating people interested in plants and the environment on the ecological problems the world is facing.

The Horiculture series of workshops and lectures covers diverse subjects such as the Asian heritage of modern roses, conifers around the world, medicinal plants in traditional Asian medicine, and plant exploration in the far East.

Popular Flower Walks were led by Executive Director Bill McNamara in the spring and fall, highlighting roses, magnolias, dogwoods, maples, conifers and fall foliage.

Because a love of gardening can evolve into concern for the environment, Sonoma County Master Gardeners give workshops in the spring and summer at Quarryhill which focus on more local gardening topics.

2012 workshops included: Designing the Garden for Year-Round Color, Form and Foliage (Year-round Garden Interest with Minimal Care), Designing with Ornamental Grasses, and Long-Lasting Floral Arrangements.

Quarryhill’s nursery saw a very active 2012. From people to plants, it has been a hub of activity. We were very fortunate to have two diligent interns last year: Rama Lopez-Rivera and Franziska Wittenstein spent two months each working in the nursery. Both interns are students at Kew Gardens. Franziska will continue her tenure with Quarryhill well into 2013. Our nursery volunteers are as valuable as ever, and have been exceedingly helpful with keeping our plants well-fed, weeded, and potted. We owe our volunteers and interns a great deal of gratitude for their time and productivity.

This year, our propagation facility received a valuable upgrade with the installation of an evaporative cooling unit to assist in limiting the indoor temperature highs during the warmer months of the year. This addition will allow us to increase our propagative successes and provide a more appropriate growing environment for our valuable young ones. With the recent addition of lighting in the same facility, we’re in high gear propagating several hundred new garden accessions collected on both Japan and China 2012 expeditions, among other sources.

Of special note among these accessions are the species of Cerasus (cherry), collected as seed by Bill while in Japan, that we do not yet have in the garden. With some seedlings already establishing themselves in pint-sized pots, you will start to see them planted out this year! Other exciting 2012 accessions include species of Enkianthus, Paeonia (peony), Primula (primrose), Rhododendron, and Rosa (rose). I am also very excited about a new 2012 accession of Sciadopitys verticillata (Japanese umbrella pine) that is currently germinating. As one of our noteworthy relic species—living fossils—I cannot help but imagine that I am looking 200 million years into the past at identical seedlings beginning their life in an ancient forest.

Corey Barnes, Education Coordinator and Nursery Manager
Considering the legacy you’ll leave . . .
Shape the future now

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

If Quarryhill, as a garden of beauty and serenity, is important to you, as well as 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.

Legacy giving doesn’t have to be complicated, and getting started is easy. A number of estate planning professionals in the county offer free initial consultations for non-profit supporters who wish to make a legacy gift. We can provide you with more information on legacy giving, and put you in touch with those professionals.

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 health through future gifts. 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 places where you can recognize someone important to you with a memorial or tribute plaque. See the website www.quarryhillbg.org for details.

Quarryhill’s Volunteers

Tireless supporters, we thank you profoundly!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art Acosta</th>
<th>Steve Corey</th>
<th>Helen Giss</th>
<th>Mary McDevitt</th>
<th>Janet Sanchez</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irene Angé</td>
<td>Eda Crosby</td>
<td>Thora Graves</td>
<td>Joyce McNamara</td>
<td>Hema Shende</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Aspens</td>
<td>Barbara Daly</td>
<td>Deborah Grove</td>
<td>Milicent Meade</td>
<td>Christine Sholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine &amp; Scott Barnes</td>
<td>Peggy DOME</td>
<td>Kate Hale</td>
<td>Dan Mihollin</td>
<td>Robert Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liz Barnes</td>
<td>Marie Duca</td>
<td>Jean Harrison</td>
<td>Marcella Moloshco</td>
<td>Cathy Stevenson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mimi Batchelder-Brown</td>
<td>Pat &amp; Steve Edelstein</td>
<td>Judi Hartnett</td>
<td>Thomas Monahan</td>
<td>Mike Stiffer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Bellisky</td>
<td>Jim Ethridge</td>
<td>Steven Hightower</td>
<td>Sharon Morgan</td>
<td>Teresa Suarez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Boehm</td>
<td>Jeanette Evans</td>
<td>Genevieve Jobes</td>
<td>Mike Morrison</td>
<td>Stephanie Sugars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Brant</td>
<td>Florida Field</td>
<td>Liz Landreth</td>
<td>Barbara Moseley</td>
<td>Adie Varin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Brubaker</td>
<td>Kathleen Fitzgerald-Orr</td>
<td>Lou Leal</td>
<td>Dorothy Nickolai</td>
<td>Gail West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Bunte</td>
<td>Susan Fletcher</td>
<td>Josie Lee</td>
<td>Jefra Parlett</td>
<td>Sandy White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michele Burton</td>
<td>Lisa Floyd</td>
<td>Beryl Li</td>
<td>Ann Peden</td>
<td>Julia &amp; Philip Wilkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anita Carstensen</td>
<td>Christie Flum</td>
<td>Sara Malone</td>
<td>Joelle Peebles</td>
<td>Franziska Wittenstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Kate Carter</td>
<td>Sherry &amp; Michael Franchetti</td>
<td>Rosemanie Marks</td>
<td>Martha Pine</td>
<td>Tina Yesson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirley Covelli</td>
<td>Anne French-Duffield</td>
<td>Charlotte Martin</td>
<td>Genoa Provencio</td>
<td>Pat Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Clark</td>
<td>Peter Fritsch</td>
<td>Rosemary McCreary</td>
<td>Gaius &amp; Alan Robinson</td>
<td>Gay Collins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gay Collins</td>
<td>Reggie Gasaway</td>
<td>Ron McCully</td>
<td>Lori Ross</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial Needs

How our funds are used:

It costs nearly $2,500 per day to maintain and operate the sixty-two 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 part of the costs of the garden. We need and depend on the support of members and contributors to continue our work wild-collecting seeds, conserving endangered species, supporting scientific research, and educating adults and children about the importance of plants and their habitats to the earth and humans.

![Income Pie Chart]

![Expenses Pie Chart]

**Major Donors**

We sincerely thank all donors and contributors, with special thanks to the following Major Donors who contributed $500 or more during 2012:

- Tamia & Thomas R. Anderson
- Kate & Robert A. Bartlett, Jr.
- Mary & Mike Benziger
- Diane & Stephen Bieneman
- Kimberly & Simon Blattner
- Ellen & Andrew Bradley
- Helen Breck
- Katherine Stark Bull & Richard Bull
- Miguel Chavez
- Elia & Dean Chen
- Sharon Christoph & Christopher Davidson
- Stephanie Clark
- Mary & Mike Colhoun
- Margaret Kelly & David Crombie
- Philippe de Spoelberch
- Dana & Richard Dirickson
- Ann Hatch & Paul Discoe
- Elisabeth Dudley
- Whitney & Jeanette Evans
- Ann & Robert Fisher
- Lisa & Peter Fritsch
- William J. Gregory
- Linda & Walter Haake
- Rori Habas
- Raquel & Charles Harris
- Kaye & Richard Heafey
- Troy & Steven Hightower
- Eleanor & Jack Higson
- Charlene Hsu-Winges & Jerry Winges
- Cherie & Keith Hughes
- Nancy Kivelson & Tom Angstadt
- Mary & Robert Kroninger
- Tatwina & Richard Lee
- Suzanne MacBride-Loomis
- Alison & Michael Mauzé
- Joanna & William McNamara
- Leslie & Mac McQuown
- Shirley Meneice
- Chris & Ronald Mickelsen
- Jane E. Mraz
- Christine & Michael Murray
- Helen & Blair Pascoe
- JaMel & Tom Perkins

- Krassimira & Bruce Rector
- Shelagh & Thomas P. Rohnen
- James Rundel
- Deborah & Harvey Shein
- Jean Simpson
- Robert N. Smith
- Luise M. Strauss
- Marguerite & Peter Trethewey
- Judy & Les Vadasz
- Lyman P. Van Slyke
- Ben Verduin
- Linda Viviani
- Tom Warton
- Cathy & Chuck Williamson
- Fran Wolfe & Cameron Wolfe, Jr.

**Organizations/Trusts:**

- California Garden & Landscape History Society
- Carmel By The Sea Garden Club
- Conifer Society Western Region
- Franklinia Foundation
- Redwood Empire Chapter California Association
- Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust
- The Lee & Juliet Folger Foundation
- William & Inez Mabie Family Foundation
According to World Bank estimates, more than 1.5 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that every year 33,000,000 acres of the world’s forests are lost through human activities, including agricultural and urban expansion, unsustainable logging, and poor land management.

Forests provide food and habitats to approximately two-thirds of all species on earth, and habitat loss by the most conservative estimates accounts for a loss of biodiversity at the rate of over 50 species every day, or over 18,000 species per year!

Why is this habitat and species loss important? Plants provide us with food, shelter, clothing, medicine, and the very air we breathe, and are by far the greatest carbon sink on the planet.

Put simply, biodiversity loss accelerates climate change and threatens our existence. We are at the precipice of the world’s sixth great extinction. Unless earth’s population wakes up to this extinction crisis and begins to act more urgently, the plant life that sustains us may reach the tipping point well before the end of the current century.

The future of life on earth depends on slowing, then restoring this loss, and protecting plants and their habitats.

International Connections

Quarryhill is party to formal Agreements of Scientific & Horticultural Cooperation with several worldwide institutions. Botanic gardens recognize that they play a major role in conserving plant species, many of which are threatened by habitat loss, fragmentation of populations, environmental pollution, climate change, and other factors. These agreements further the conservation interests of the respective parties.

In 2012, we executed agreements with three additional institutions in China: Guizhou Botanical Garden, Shenzhen Fairly Lake Botanical Garden and Qinling Botanical Garden. In addition, Quarryhill maintains relationships with:

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland
Beijing Botanical Garden, Beijing, China
Nanjing Botanical Garden, Nanjing, China
Yunnan Academy of Forestry, Kunming, China
Zhejiang Botanical Garden, Hangzhou, China
Niigata Prefectural Botanical Garden, Niigata, Japan

The Worldwide Extinction Crisis

According to World Bank estimates, more than 1.5 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that every year 33,000,000 acres of the world’s forests are lost through human activities, including agricultural and urban expansion, unsustainable logging, and poor land management.

Forests provide food and habitats to approximately two-thirds of all species on earth, and habitat loss by the most conservative estimates accounts for a loss of biodiversity at the rate of over 50 species every day, or over 18,000 species per year!

Why is this habitat and species loss important? Plants provide us with food, shelter, clothing, medicine, and the very air we breathe, and are by far the greatest carbon sink on the planet.

Put simply, biodiversity loss accelerates climate change and threatens our existence. We are at the precipice of the world’s sixth great extinction. Unless earth’s population wakes up to this extinction crisis and begins to act more urgently, the plant life that sustains us may reach the tipping point well before the end of the current century.

The future of life on earth depends on slowing, then restoring this loss, and protecting plants and their habitats.