An interpretive Rose Garden, long a dream at Quarryhill, is now actively on its way to becoming a reality. A capital campaign to raise the $40,000 cost of the garden was announced at the Fireside Chat, featuring rosarian Bill Grant, in late February. The campaign was soon heavily subscribed, with a $20,000 donation from the Taicang Agricultural University of China.

Maples for Every Season
Bill McNamara, Executive Director

Maple trees have long been considered to be one of the most colorful trees of our forests. Mention a maple tree and usually the sugar maple on the Canadian flag or the Japanese maple comes to mind, largely due to their brilliant red fall color. Yet these are only two of the approximately 130 species of maples found around the world. Maples occur in temperate and tropical regions throughout North and Central America, Europe, Asia, and North Africa. The highest concentration of maples, by far, is in China where close to 100 species occur. China is the center of diversity for maples and almost two thirds of the species found there are endemics (not found outside of China).

Maples are members of the Aceraceae, the maple family, though some taxonomists now place them in the Sapindaceae, the soapberry family. They are known by the genus name Acer, which comes from the Latin word for “sharp”. It is also the Latin name for maple trees due to their hard wood that was used for spear hafts. The leaves of maples vary greatly but they are always opposite along the stems. All maples have the distinct winged seeds called samaras that helicopter away from the parent tree in the fall.

With Quarryhill’s focus on temperate Asian species, our maple collection is especially rich with 45 species. We also are home to a fine collection of Acer palmatum cultivars, most of which were donated to Quarryhill by Momiji Nursery in Santa Rosa. No matter the time of year, our maples have something to offer. Throughout the year, the flaking cinnamon-colored bark of the paperbark maple, Acer griseum, draws curious stares. In mid-winter, the fine snake-bark of the many Acer davidii stands out in stark contrast to the evergreen Acer fabri, Acer albo-purpurascens, and Acer oblongum. In spring, the bright yellow flowers of Acer cappadocicum subsp. sinicum, followed quickly by their scarlet samaras, surprise everyone. During the summer months, the trifoliate leaves of Acer henryi and Acer griseum, along with the non-palmate leaves of the evergreen maples, confuse our visitors and usher forth comments like “that can’t be a maple”. The splendid, vivid colors of all the maples, but especially of Acer cissifolium, Acer morrisonense, and, of course, Acer palmatum, light up the garden every autumn.

A recent study by the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) concluded that Quarryhill’s maple collection is ranked third, along with The Morton Arboretum, in the conservation of maples worldwide at botanic gardens and arboreta. Only the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden surpass us in the ranking. This is quite an honor for Quarryhill and our founder as we celebrate our twenty-fifth year. Most of the other institutions studied were already well established long before Jane Davenport Jansen began to make Quarryhill a reality. This recognition by the BGCI is due in large part to our conservation work on the very endangered Acer pentaphyllum. Found only in Tibetan areas of western Sichuan along the Yalong River and its tributaries, this maple is threatened with extinction due primarily to habitat loss. Twenty-two dams are either under construction or proposed for the Yalong River, which, when completed, will submerge most, if
Maples for Every Season  continued from page 1

Dr. Yaling Wang
Jennifer Kesser

From her home in Xi’an, China, famous for the recently unearthed, life-sized terracotta soldiers, Dr. Yaling Wang journeyed to the U.S. to attend the Magnolia Society International for their meetings in Northern California. With her vast knowledge of and passion for wild and cultivated magnolias, Quarryhill was thrilled to host her stay for the Magnolia Society’s events. Since she had never been to the U.S. before, Quarryhill thought it fitting for her to see and experience Yosemite National Park. With Yosemite’s beautiful, cascading spring waterfalls, breathtaking glacial mountains, and plethora of wild life, she would be sure to enjoy the sites!

Leaving Glen Ellen on Wednesday, March 7th, Administrative Assistant Jennifer Kesser and QBG Volunteer Beryl Li joined Yaling as they ventured into the wild. The journey was blessed with good, clear weather, though a road closure caused a 2 hour detour. The views were spectacular coming in from the west along the river. Our first stop was Bridalveil Falls, a 617 foot tall, awe-inspiring waterfall. You could hear falling sheets of ice echo their way down the canyon. Spirits high and cameras snapping, we took it all in. Next, we drove the valley floor gaping in wonder out of the sun roof at the 7,500 foot high El Capitan, famous rock climbing destination. By this time, the sun was going down and we drove to the historic Ahwahnee Hotel for a great view of Half Dome, and a look into a time long past. The Yosemite Lodge was home for the night after some decent, hot Jambalaya and several card games. We hiked to Yosemite Falls the next sunny morning, amazed with its beauty and size. Over 1,400 feet that waterfall, making it one of the tallest waterfalls in the world. We hit the road around 11am in an effort to see the Giant Sequoias before making the trip home. We stopped several times, taking pictures, a little sad to be leaving the valley. The south view of Yosemite Valley was mind-blowing, and we had to get out. En route to the Mariposa Grove, Yaling noticed something in the road: "a fox!" she said. It was an easy pull out so we pulled over and to our surprise the Coyote came right up to us. We stayed in the car, with the coyote happily posing for our cameras while we supposed it was waiting to be fed. We did not feed it. We eventually made it to the Mariposa Grove, which was a huge highlight. There are only 75 naturally occurring Giant Sequoia groves in the world, all located in California. How lucky we felt to be walking beneath such beautiful, towering, old creatures.

The other endangered maples at Quarryhill include Acer amplum subsp. catalpfolium, found only in small isolated populations in Guangxi, Guizhou, and Sichuan, China, Acer griseum, found only in small fragmented populations in central China, Acer miyabei, with only about 700 individuals left in the wilds of Japan, Acer morrisonense, in rapid decline on the island of Taiwan, Acer pycanthum, restricted in Japan to several small populations of twenty or fewer individuals, and Acer sikkimensis, extremely rare in southern Xizang (Tibet) and Yunnan, though it is believed to occur in Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Vietnam, but its status in these countries is unknown.

Studying maples and their habitats in the wild, learning how best to propagate them, and understanding the successful cultivation of these remarkable trees are all important if we hope to conserve them in our rapidly changing world. Quarryhill’s mission is dedicated to doing just that. These are just a few of the things that we do at Quarryhill to help ensure that future generations will be able to see, learn about and enjoy the maples of our world.
Thank You, Volunteers

Quarryhill’s staff wishes to extend special appreciation to our growing volunteer family. Our efforts are amplified many times by yours, and we rely heavily on your participation and your passion. Thank you all for your significant contribution in making this garden all that it is today.

Art Acosta  
Maki Aizawa  
Irene Angé  
Kathleen Aspenns  
Christine & Scott Barnes  
Liz Barnes  
Mimi Batchelder-Brown  
Cheryl Belitsky  
Mary Boehm  
Carol Brant  
Oralia Briggs  
Alan Brubaker  
Kathleen Bunte  
Michele Burton  
Anita Carstensen  
Mary Kate Carter  
Talibah Chiku  
Stephanie Clark  
Gay Collins  
Teresa Conroy  
Steve Corey  
Stephanie Correia  
Eda Crosby  
Barbara Daly  
Peggy Dombeck  
Marie Duca  
Pat & Steve Edelstein  
Jim Ethridge  
Jeanette Evans  
Mary Fazekas  
Flora Field  
Kathleen Fitzgerald-Orr  
Susan Fletcher  
Lisa Floyd  
Christie Flum  
Sherry & Michael Franchetti  
Peter Fritsch  
Reggie Gasaway  
Helen Giss  
Thora Graves  
Deborah Grove  
Kate Hale  
Jean Harrison  
Steven Hightower  
Genevieve Jobes  
Candace Krout  
Liz Landreth  
Lou Leal  
Josie Lee  
Beryl Li  
Charlotte Martin  
Rosemary McCreary  
Ron McCully  
Mary McDevitt  
Joyce McNamara  
Millicent Meade  
Dan Milhollin  
Marcella Moloshco  
Sharon Morgan  
Mike Morrison  
Elizabeth Morris-Stephens  
Dorothy Nickolai  
Jefra Parlett  
Ann Peden  
Joelle Peebles  
Martha Pine  
Genoa Provencio  
Gaius & Alan Robinson  
Lori Ross  
Janet Sanchez  
Hema Shende  
Christine Sholders  
Robert Smith  
Pam Spears  
Charmaine Starks  
Cathy Stevenson  
Mike Stiffler  
Teresa Suarez  
Stephanie Sugars  
Adie Varin  
Gerrie & Robert Walker  
Gail West  
Julia & Philip Wilkinson  
Cameron Wolfe, Jr.

Quarryhill Volunteers participate as tour-guides and educators and in the nursery, Visitor & Education Center and office. Volunteers receive a free membership with reciprocal admission benefits to gardens around the country. To join this tightly knit and diverse group of people, please call the main office at 707-996-3166 or email cbarnes@quarryhillbg.org.

Spring Celebration  
June 2, 2012

Join us to celebrate this milestone and wander the garden paths at the peak of their beauty

12 noon Guest Speaker Warren Roberts  
Superintendent Emeritus  
UC Davis Arboretum  
Bento Box Lunch by Shiso  
Silent Auction  
10 - 3 Annual Plant Sale  
Garden Tours at 11 & 2  
Members: $45, Non-members: $55

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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
Checklist of Seasonal Birds
Christine Walker

In addition to emerging blossoms of the magnolias, cherries, rhododendrons, maples, and the dramatic purple swath of the Empress Tree (Paulownia), another familiar sight welcomes visitors on an early Spring day at Quarryhill Botanical Garden. Two Canada Geese have returned to the island in the lower pond to their habitual roost, protected from predators. Not long from now, their goslings will form a line behind mom and waddle through the garden gaining strength for their annual pilgrimage. Last month, a curious pair occupied our upper pond - a river otter and, never far away, a Great-blue Heron. If you sit for a moment and quiet the crunch of your boots along the gravel paths, do you hear the warble, trills, honks, and gobbles that compose the aerial song of our feathered friends? Can you catch a photo of one? If you do, send it along with the date you took it to info@quarryhillbg.org.

Quarryhill is not only home to a wonderful, exotic collection of plants but a host of bird life, and we are fortunate that Sonoma Birding’s Tom Rusert and Darren Peterie recently created this checklist of species you are likely to encounter on your visit. From the most common sightings – Quails, Wild Turkeys, Red-winged Blackbirds, the Great-blue Heron – to some more rare individuals like California’s iconic eagle, this list will guide your investigation of another layer of diversity at Quarryhill.

Continued on page 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WADING BIRDS</th>
<th>HUMMINGBIRDS</th>
<th>TANAGERS, BUNTINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heron, Great-blue</td>
<td>Hummingbird, Anna’s</td>
<td>Common Yellowthroat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egret, Great</td>
<td>Hummingbird, Allen’s</td>
<td>Warbler, Wilson’s</td>
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<td>Egret, Snowy</td>
<td>WRENTITS</td>
<td>Tanager, Western</td>
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<td>VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES</td>
<td>Wrentit</td>
<td>Bunting, Lazuli</td>
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<td>Vulture, Turkey</td>
<td>KINGLETS, GNATCATCHERS</td>
<td>GROSBEAKS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harrier, Northern</td>
<td>Kinglet, Golden-crowned</td>
<td>Grosbeak, Black-headed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kite, White-tailed</td>
<td>Kinglet, Ruby-crowned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hawk, Cooper’s</td>
<td>THRUSHES</td>
<td>TOWHEES, SPARROWS, JUN-COS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hawk, Sharp-shinned</td>
<td>Bluebird, Western</td>
<td>Towhee, California</td>
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<td>Hawk, Red-shouldered</td>
<td>Thrush, Varied</td>
<td>Towhee, Spotted</td>
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<td>Hawk, Red-tailed</td>
<td>Thrush, Swainson’s</td>
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<td>Eagle, Golden</td>
<td>Thrush, Hermit</td>
<td>Sparrow, Lark</td>
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<td>Eagle, Bald</td>
<td>Robin, American</td>
<td>Sparrow, Fox</td>
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<td>FALCONS</td>
<td>MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHERS</td>
<td>Sparrow, Song</td>
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<td>Kestrel, American</td>
<td>Mockingbird, Northern</td>
<td>Junco, Dark-eyed</td>
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<td>Falcon, Peregrine</td>
<td>Thrasher, California</td>
<td>Sparrow, White-crowned</td>
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<td>UPLAND GAME BIRDS</td>
<td>WAXWINGS</td>
<td>Sparrow, Golden-crowned</td>
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<td>Pheasant, Ring-necked</td>
<td>Waxwing, Cedar</td>
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<td>STARLINGS</td>
<td>WOODPECKERS</td>
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<td>Quail, Mountain</td>
<td>Starling, European</td>
<td>Flicker, Northern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quail, California</td>
<td>WOOD WARBLERS</td>
<td>Woodpecker, Acorn</td>
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<td>DOVES</td>
<td>Warbler, Townsend’s</td>
<td>Woodpecker, Downy</td>
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<td>Pigeon, Feral (Rock Dove)</td>
<td>Warbler, Orange-crowned</td>
<td>Woodpecker, Hairy</td>
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<td>Pigeon, Band-tailed</td>
<td>Warbler, Hermit</td>
<td>Woodpecker, Nuttall’s</td>
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<td>Dove, Mourning</td>
<td>Warbler, Black-throated Gray</td>
<td>Woodpecker, Pileated</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Warbler, Yellow-rumped</td>
<td>Sapsucker, Red-breasted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continued on page 5
Checklist of Seasonal Birds  

**FLYCATCHERS**
- Pewee, Western Wood-
- Phoebe, Black
- Flycatcher, Pacific-slope
- Phoebe, Say's
- Kingbird, Western

**OWLS**
- Owl, Barn
- Owl, Western Screech-
- Owl, Great Horned

**SHRIKES, VIREOS**
- Swallow, Tree
- Swallow, Violet-green
- Swallow, Barn
- Swallow, Cliff
- Vireo, Hutton's

**JAYS, CROWS, RAVENS**
- Vireo, Warbling
- Jay, Steller’s
- Jay, Western Scrub-
- Crow, American
- Raven, Common

**CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES**
- Titmouse, Oak
- Chickadee, Chestnut-backed
- Bushtit
- Nuthatch, White-breasted
- Nuthatch, Red-breasted

**CREEPERS**
- Creeper, Brown

**WRENS**
- Wren, House
- Wren, Marsh

**ICTERIDS**
- Meadowlark, Western
- Blackbird, Red-winged
- Blackbird, Brewer’s
- Cowbird, Brown-headed

**FINCHES, OLD WORLD SPARRROWS**
- Finch, House
- Finch, Purple
- Goldfinch, Lesser
- Goldfinch, American
- Siskin, Pine
- Sparrow, House

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Thank you to Sonoma Birding for creating this checklist and guiding bird walks at our annual Earth Day Open House on Saturday April 21. Sonoma Birding was established in 2004 as a host of the annual Sonoma Valley Audubon Christmas Bird Count, CBC for Kids, Summer Bird Camp for Kids, nature classes and other related events. They also co-sponsor the Valley of the Moon Nature Lecture Series with the Sonoma County Parks.

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**Welcome to Ashley!**

Quarryhill is pleased to welcome Ashley Robertson as the garden’s newest employee and first Visitor & Education Center Weekend Manager. Ashley attended and graduated from both the Santa Rosa Junior College and Sonoma State University, where she focused on biology and wildlife conservation, subsequently working as a research assistant in Kenya. She loves to travel and has also visited Guatemala, Hawaii and Greece.

Her interests at home include hiking, dancing and outdoor activities of all types, as well as creating jewelry and other decorative items with her new metalsmithing/jeweler’s bench.

At Quarryhill, she will staff the new V&E Center on weekends, greeting and assisting visitors, and helping to develop the space as a retail center for the garden. Please drop by the center on weekends and help us welcome Ashley to Quarryhill.
To register, send payment to:
Quarryhill Botanical Garden
PO Box 232, Glen Ellen, CA 95442
707-996-3166, info@quarryhillbg.org
www.quarryhillbg.org

### Events Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Horticulture Series - Dr. Peter Fritsch <strong>The California Academy of Sciences in China Earth Day Open House</strong> $10 / $15</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Self-guided garden tours are free on the 25th of every month in our 25th anniversary year! No Charge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>25</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Spring Celebration featuring guest speaker <strong>Warren G. Roberts</strong>, Superintendent Emeritus of UC Davis Arboretum $45 / $55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Third Saturday Docent Tour $5 / $15</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Master Gardener Workshop Series - Drip Irrigation, Steven Hightower &amp; Cathy Williamson No charge</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Self-guided garden tours are free on the 25th of every month in our 25th anniversary year! No charge</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Third Saturday Docent Tour $5 / $15</td>
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<tr>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Master Gardener Workshop Series - Form &amp; Foliage: Designing with Conifers, Sara Malone No Charge</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Flower Essence Walk with <strong>Kathleen Aspenns</strong> $10 / $15</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Third Saturday Docent Tour $5 / 15</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Master Gardener Workshop Series - Gardening with Ornamental Grasses, Rosemary McCrea $5 / $15 No charge</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Self-guided garden tours are free on the 25th of every month in our 25th anniversary year! No charge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Executive Director

William A. McNamara

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- Thomas Anderson
- Katherine Stark Bull
- Stephanie Clark
- Dana Dirickson
- Peter Fritsch
- Walter Haake
- Charles E. Harris
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Advance the Conservation, Study, and Cultivation of the Flora of Asia

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