Jane’s Vision Continues

The story of how a rocky quarry-scarred hillside in Glen Ellen turned into one of the country’s most significant collections of plants from Asia is a story I tell frequently. It is a story that begins and continues to unfold due to the vision, enthusiasm, and determination of Jane Davenport Jansen. Those that knew Jane might remember her saying that she hoped that she would be “remembered for her great vision, but in fact the garden just happened topsy-turvy.” This was just an example of her self-deprecating humor, as she knew from the beginning that Quarryhill would one day become an important garden. I remember some of the early visitors, some prominent horticulturists and botanists, rolling their eyes when they saw what Jane was attempting. And now, some of those same horticulturists and botanists are frequent visitors because of the wealth of species, the careful documentation, and the sheer beauty of the place. From her meetings in the mid 80’s with Lord Howick, Director of the Howick Arboretum, and John Simmons, then Curator of the Living Collection at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Jane clearly saw the potential of what she might create. Jane’s knowledge of horticulture grew over the years almost as fast as the garden itself. It was always a pleasure to see her delight when a new collection bloomed for the first time. It wasn’t long before she was recognized and praised for her contribution to the world (Continued on page 2)

Database of Asian Plants in Cultivation (DAPC)

In conjunction with the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, Quarryhill has established an on-line, searchable database that features data on East Asian plants found at a variety of botanical gardens and arboretums in the United States and Europe. Though still in its infancy, this resource promises to attract many additional data contributors throughout the world as awareness of its educational and scientific value grows. Data includes basic collection information as well as the location and number of living specimens. In addition, information about contributor institutions’ is available, including website and e-mail links. Considering that the vast majority of database listings represents well documented, wild-origin collections from East Asia, this resource offers a novel means to access and investigate a wide variety of native, Asian plant material. Please visit this resource by choosing the DAPC link on our website, at www.quarryhillbg.org.
JANE’S VISION CONTINUES

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of horticulture and botany. She was made a Member-at-Large of the Garden Club of America and a member of the G.C.A.’s Rare Plant Group. Upon her death in 2000, Volume 8 of the Flora of China was dedicated to her memory. Today, the staff, volunteers and board of directors are dedicated to continuing Jane’s vision of searching for, documenting, growing and displaying plant species from Asia, so many of which are endangered. Ahead of her time, Jane knew that conserving the world’s biodiversity might be the most important task of this century.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JO

She turns 100 this July. Yes that's right, Jo Nickolai will be 100 years old on July 11, 2004. Jo and her daughter Dorothy were Quarryhill's first volunteers, having begun helping in the nursery in December of 1988 separating newly sprouted seedlings from Quarryhill’s first expedition. It is not an exaggeration to say that Jo and Dorothy have had, over the years, their hands on most of the seeds and seedlings from Quarryhill's many expeditions. Although no longer active as a volunteer, Jo still comes to the garden occasionally to make sure the other volunteers aren't stepping out of line. Last April on the anniversary of Earth Day, with almost all of Quarryhill’s volunteers and docents in attendance, along with the staff, Jo cut the ribbon for the dedication of the new information sign located in the picnic area. Donated by Jo and Dorothy, the sign was designed by Victor Thompson. Quarryhill would not be the wonderful place that it is without the help of our many volunteers and docents.

Sara Donnelly, Jo Nickolai, Dorothy Nickolai, and John Donnelly

IN THE GARDEN

Spring in the garden started early this year when a couple of unusual warm spells struck in March and April and brought out the Camellias and Michelas. The early start to spring helped the Rosa chinensis var. spontanea burst out with beautiful color in early March. Rhododendron japonicum, with its profusion of orange blooms, made its typical early spring entrance, followed by Quarryhill’s many species of Iris, lasting into late spring and beyond. Cornus capitata continues to impress visitors with its pale yellow “flowers” (actually bracts) and a particularly strong reddish-pink tinge on some trees this year. There was an especially strong and long-lasting multi-colored display of some newly planted Aquilegia flabellata from Korean seed, and the

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The Mission of Quarryhill Botanical Garden is to advance the conservation, study and cultivation of the temperate Flora of Asia.

(Continued from page 2)

bright orange fruit of the *Idesia polycarpa* persisted through fall and winter with some still evident even now in early summer. As usual, May and June began the beautiful parade of lilies that continue to bloom through to September. *Spiraea, Philadelphus*, and *Viburnum* are among those that fill the summer months with color and show.

Remember to stop by the garden this summer to take in the beautiful array of dogwoods, hydrangeas and many other surprises hidden around every corner of the garden. Fall, of course, offers up its own palette of beauty with the color change of our many deciduous species, the sweet smell of fallen *Cercidiphyllum* leaves, and the increasingly apparent architecture and rich, earthy colors displayed on the trunks and stems of so many woody specimens. To reserve space on a tour, contact Jesika at (707) 996-3166.

**Garden Visitors**

Quarryhill was fortunate to have Ihsan Al-Shehbaz, co-director of the *Flora of China* project, visit last March. The *Flora of China*, a new work in twenty-five volumes, is an English-language revision of the *Flora Republicae Popularis Sinicae*. Dr. Al-Shehbaz, an expert on the Brassicaceae (Mustard Family), is with the Missouri Botanical Garden and has made many journeys to China for fieldwork and meetings. It was his first visit to Quarryhill and he expressed amazement at the diversity and vigor of the collection. He was brought to the garden by Quarryhill board member Bruce Bartholomew. Dr. Bartholomew is the Senior Collections Manager in the Department of Botany of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. He also has traveled widely in China and is a member of the *Flora of China* editorial committee. Bruce’s daughter Mulan Tarnas and Zhou Lihua from the California Academy of Sciences were also along for the visit.

Long time collecting partner Lord Charles Howick, Director of the Howick Arboretum in Northumberland, England, visited in April. Lord Howick has joined Quarryhill in 14 of our 19 seed collecting expeditions and is Chair of Quarryhill’s Advisory Committee. He was last here in 1993, and was very impressed to see the results of our many joint expeditions thriving in California. He spent most of his time taking notes on how various plants were performing here as compared to his arboretum in the very different climate of northeast England. We also discussed at great length future possibilities for expeditions to China, Japan, India and elsewhere.

During Lord Howick’s visit, Ching-I Peng of the Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica of Taiwan, stopped in to see Quarryhill. Dr. Peng, an authority on Begonias, is also a member of the *Flora of China* editorial committee and is arranging Quarryhill’s upcoming expedition to Taiwan for this October. Bruce and Terese Bartholomew also joined us for a very pleasant walk through the garden followed by lunch with Lord Howick. It was a great opportunity to discuss the upcoming expedition to Taiwan as well as other future possibilities for fieldwork.
**Master Planning Session**

An important step for the future of Quarryhill will be taken on the weekend of July 24 & 25 when we have a master planning charette with four prominent landscape architects. Laura Hartman of Fernau & Hartman Architects, Linda Jewell and Ray Freeman of Freeman & Jewell Landscape Architecture, and Dennis Meyer of The Portico Group will join Quarryhill board members Scot Medbury and Tamia Marg along with garden director Bill McMamara for an in-depth site analysis, discussion, and brainstorming session. Local landscape architect Don MacNair, a member of the Design Review Board of Sonoma County, will also be on hand for part of the session to offer a Sonoma County perspective. Some of the issues that will be addressed are the location of a new propagation facility, a review of appropriate uses of buildings, pedestrian circulation and vehicle traffic, including the entry to the property, optimum use of utilities, and the development and improvement of key landscape features. This study will provide Quarryhill with an intelligent plan that will enable the garden to move forward in a sound manner.

**Emmenopterys henryi**

It’s rare in the wilds of China and it may be even rarer in cultivation. Yet this interesting tree continues to attract attention not necessarily because of its rarity, but because of a statement by the indefatigable plant hunter Ernest H. Wilson. Trained at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Wilson first went to China in search of ornamental plants in 1899. He was sent by the Veitch & Sons firm, the Royal Exotic Nursery, to find the dove tree, *Davidia involucrata* Baill. and spent the better part of a decade introducing a wealth of plants new to cultivation from China into Europe and North America. His well-publicized efforts gained him the nickname of ‘Chinese Wilson’.

First introduced by Wilson in 1907, *Emmenopterys henryi* Oliv. owes its fame to Wilson’s description of it as “one of the most strikingly beautiful trees of Chinese forests”. Due to his stature in the world of horticulture, a comment like this drew a great deal of attention. But the excitement slowly drifted into frustration as the trees in cultivation refused to bloom. The first tree in Britain to flower was in 1987 at Wakehurst Place and was more than 75 years old; the first in Europe, also decades old, was at Villa Taranto, Pallanza, on Lake Maggiore in Italy in 1971. The tree at Wakehurst Place has not flowered since, nor have any others in Britain. The first to flower in North America was in the collection of Dr. Allen Hirsh of Silver Spring, Maryland in 1994 and was from seed germinated at the Arnold Arboretum in 1979. Since then, a number of trees in the southeastern USA have begun blooming.

Remarkably, 2 trees only 6 years old are now blooming at Quarryhill. As far as we know, these are the first to flower in western North America and may be the youngest ever to flower in cultivation. Our trees came from seed collected during Quarryhill’s expedition to eastern Sichuan in 1996 in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Howick Arboretum. They germinated the following year, one being planted in the ground in 1998 and the other in 2000. Showing extraordinary vigor and health, both have grown as shrubs, lacking a single leader and have reached 15 feet and 8 feet, respectively. The flower buds were first noticed in late June.

*Emmenopterys henryi* has a wide distribution in south central China, but is endangered due to agricultural expansion, logging and poor regeneration. It is a monotypic genus of the Rubiaceae and can grow to over 100 feet, though large specimens are extremely rare. Endemic to China, it is a deciduous tree with large dark green opposite leaves with red petioles. The clusters of white 1-inch funnel-shaped flowers can be up to 10 inches across and are surrounded by large white ‘bracts’ similar to *Schizophragma*. According to the *China Plant Red Data Book*, it does not flower until 30 years of age and usually sets seed once every 2-4 years.

Fortunate to have seen *Emmenopterys henryi* in the wild and now to have it blooming in cultivation, would I concur with ‘Chinese’ Wilson? Perhaps, as it is indeed beautiful, but one thing is certain, I have a new favorite tree.
Quarryhill Botanical Garden is proud to announce that this spring marked a very successful first ever workshop series. The series was kicked off with an evening slide show and reception in February held at the administrative offices in the garden. The slide show, given by garden director William McNamara, highlighted the many expeditions to Asia he has taken to collect seed and herbaria for the garden.

In April Nursery Manager Peter Clements held a Propagation Workshop. The workshop was an introductory, hands-on training session in which participants learned the ins and outs of propagating a variety of seeds and cuttings.

June 12th brought a unique garden experience for participants. A Garden Photography Workshop with renowned garden photographer Saxon Holt was held. Holt showed how to visualize the garden through a camera lens and gave numerous photography tips, after which participants were able to spend some time photographing the garden.

The last two workshops in the series are fast approaching. On August 14th a Chinese Medicinal Plant Walk will be held with medicinal plant grower Peggy Schafer and traditional Chinese medical practitioner Sean Fannin. The walk will be an opportunity to learn about some of the plants used in traditional Chinese medicine, from how they are grown to how they are used. On October 25th a Chinese History Lecture and Luncheon with retired Stanford Professor of Chinese History, Lyman Van Slyke will be held to take a look at nature, botanical interest, and gardens in China.

The 2005 workshop series is currently being planned and looks to be even more exciting. A lecture and luncheon with Salvia expert and author Betsy Clebsch, Bonsai trimming and tips, an evening with Peter Raven, flower arranging, and a butterfly walk are all in the works as possible workshops. Stay tuned to www.quarryhillbg.org/VisitInfo/WorkSched.htm for a current workshop schedule.

If you would like to sign up for any of the remaining 2004 Workshops, contact Jesika at (707) 996-3166 or e-mail her at info@quarryhillbg.org.

There is a Chinese proverb which says: “If you want to be happy for three hours, get drunk; if you want to be happy for three days, slaughter a pig; if you want to be happy for three weeks, get married; if you want to be happy for the rest of your life, start a garden.”

Good Luck Peter

How the time flies!!! It seems like only yesterday that Peter Clements arrived from England, a little green behind the ears, as an intern with a Garden Club of America scholarship. Now, after almost eight productive years at Quarryhill, Peter is moving on to start his own landscape design and consultation business. While at Quarryhill, he quickly rose to Nursery Manager and participated in a seed collecting expedition to Sichuan, China in 2003. We will miss his good nature, enthusiasm, and skill as a plantsman and wish him all the best in his new venture.

2004 Workshops

Participants enjoying the plant propagation workshop

Board of Directors
Bruce Bartholomew
Barbara Barton
Donna Bowman
Helen Breck
Maynard Garrison
Sally MacBride
Tamia Marg
Scot Medbury
Ronald Mickelsen
Willa Mundell
Thomas P. Rohlen
Lyman P. Van Slyke

Advisory Committee
Daniel Campbell
Peter Del Tredici
Charles M. Erskine
Lord Charles Howick
Anthony S. Kirkham
Peter H. Raven

Quarryhill Botanical Garden
In March our tour season started with a bang. All of our tours are led by a knowledgeable team of tour docents. Each docent goes through a period of training and this year’s training began in March with over 13 new docents joining to help lead tours from March through October. Some of our seasoned docents have been doing so for over ten years.

Our propagation volunteers have also been hard at work helping the nursery manager care for some of the new seeds and seedlings that have grown in the nursery this past spring. Most of Quarryhill’s plants go into the ground from 4” pots, and are grown from seed collected on Quarryhill’s own expeditions throughout temperate regions of Asia and propagated by our hard working group of propagation volunteers.