For the Love of Libraries
Bill McNamara, Executive Director

Libraries mean different things to different people. For some they might be a reminder of a quiet place for long hours of study during school when you would rather be somewhere else. For others though, they can be a wonderland of new and fascinating knowledge, wisdom and pleasure. That was the case for me. I fell in love with libraries when I was a student at Cal Western University on Point Loma in San Diego. The site was at one time the headquarters of the Theosophical Society of America and much of their extensive library remained. I spent countless hours browsing through the shelves as whole new worlds revealed themselves. I was also falling in love with trees then and benefited from earlier wide-ranging exotic tree plantings on Point Loma by the Theosophists. When I transferred to the University of California at Berkeley, I was overwhelmed by the massive library, many times larger than Cal Western’s. There I continued my almost daily sojourns among the shelves overflowing with books that kept me enthralled for hours on end.

One of my early goals for Quarryhill was to build a significant botanical and horticultural library to complement the quickly growing living collection of plants. Over the years, as funds were available, we slowly built a respectable collection of books on botany and horticulture. Then, in 2012, during Quarryhill’s twenty-fifth year, we were surprised and delighted to receive a large portion of the very impressive and substantial library of the late Dr. Richard L. Ingraham. His partner William Gregory reached out to us looking for an appropriate home for the extraordinary botanical collection and donated funds to build shelves for the books. Dr. Ingraham received his Ph.D. at UC Berkeley on Human Genetics and went on to teach for twenty-five years at San Jose State University where he became one of the most popular lecturers on campus.

I never had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Ingraham, but I’m told he loved trees. A quick glance at the donated books confirmed this, and that he was not just interested in trees that grew in Northern California. Titles range from Tree-Talk to Brazilian Trees to Trees of Southern Africa. Although the majority of the books are on or about trees, his interest in plants didn’t stop there. There are books about invasive plants, orchids, ferns, shrubs, mushrooms and more. We placed the new library in the conference room and, with a plaque on the outside wall, declared the building Home of the Richard L. Ingraham Li-
Love of Libraries (continued from page 1)

my love affair with libraries and their books began before the advent of the ubiquity of computers in every home, office and school. And it is true that I can often find information on a particular plant quicker with a search on my computer than I can in our library. But nothing can match the feel of a hefty solid book in my hands as I glean whatever information I am after. Some say libraries of books are on their way out and that it is just a matter of time, perhaps a generation away, until the digital age buries them altogether. For this garden, though, and for me, books will remain an inspiration and a source of knowledge, wisdom and joy for years to come.

National Garden Club Award for Quarryhill Director

Quarryhill’s executive director, Bill McNamara, has received, via nomination by the California Garden Clubs, the highest achievement award conferred by the National Garden Club, Inc., the Award of Excellence. The National Garden Club (website at gardenclub.org) is the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world, with nearly 190,000 members.

Based in St. Louis, Missouri, the organization’s mission is to provide “education, resources and national networking opportunities for its members, to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility.” Among their many ongoing projects are the Blue Star Memorial Initiative honoring US servicemen and service-women through the memorial beautification of public settings, Butterfly Gardens at the U.S. Botanic Garden, numerous flower shows, and youth programs with an emphasis on recycling and conservation. The National Garden Club also performs outreach by helping Habitat for Humanity establish low-maintenance, environmentally friendly gardens, providing disaster relief in the form of re-landscaping, such as in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and working in partnership with other non-profits to provide clean water in impoverished areas of Latin America and Haiti.

The award recognizes Bill’s contributions toward the understanding and conservation of the temperate flora of Asia through many years of plant-collecting expeditions to China, Japan, Nepal and Taiwan. These efforts have focused on the conservation of rare and endangered flora, and have helped to bridge communication and cooperation between East Asian and western botanists and plant enthusiasts. Quarryhill salutes Bill for this well-earned tribute and for his continued efforts to save and promote Asian plants.
It has been little more than a year since the planting and completion of Quarryhill’s new rose garden, named for Madam Jiang Entian, who dedicated a lifetime promoting rose culture in her native China. Under the diligent care of Quarryhill gardener Baldo Larios Moya, the garden sprung to life in late winter this year and soon provided a rich show of healthy rose cultivars displaying a beautiful pallet of colors.

As a novel effort regarding both use of space previously covered with lawn, and the growing of hybridized, long-domesticated flora vastly different from the wild-origin species found in the main garden, some uneasy anticipation accompanied the over-winter wait for a spring renewal. Any concerns were dispelled when the garden was in full bloom by early spring, not at all hindered by sustained freezing temperatures over several weeks in midwinter. Significant and sometimes surprising differences in plant vigor and floral production were evident among the many rose families and cultivars. Aside from some poor growth at the garden’s outer southeast edge, where soil quality and compaction may be contributing factors, overall cultural conditions have proven to be excellent. David Austin and Hybrid Tea selections are particularly robust and colorful in their new home. Various degrees of repeat-blooming and fragrance, aptly labeled on signage, exist between and within the different cultivar groups. Numerous selections have already required substantial pruning, given their limited space, and several climbing varieties will soon be trained onto trellis structures to accommodate their massing and vining growth habits. Especially exciting and important for the future of both the main garden and the discovery, during last year’s expedition to Yunnan, China, of the elusive Rosa odorata var. gigantea. Seeds of this species were finally procured from the very region considered to be the origin of plants transported from Asia to Europe in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. This species is believed by many to represent the primary genetic source of the extensively developed Tea rose family and their myriad descendants.

As the garden develops further with its breadth of varieties and in the maturity of its specimens, Quarryhill invites supporters to consider donations that will help fund maintenance and expansion of the garden. Larger gifts will result in a commemorative, donor-inscribed brick ($500) or paver ($1,000) placed into a garden path. On your next visit to Quarryhill, please don’t overlook a visit to the Entian Heritage Rose Garden, just west of the parking area and Visitor Center— in comparison to the main garden, you will be greeted with a very different and rewarding perspective on the legacy of East Asian roses in the western world.
Intern Update
By Corey Barnes, Education Coordinator and Nursery Manager

This summer brings both a departure from and an arrival for the Quarryhill nursery. Franziska Wittenstein, a student at Santa Rosa Junior College over the past two years, departed from Quarryhill at the end of May. Franziska came to us last September, and interned with us for a full nine months. She was instrumental in working with our nursery volunteers who together helped us to prepare and execute our most successful plant sale fundraiser yet, this year held on Earth Day. Franziska’s methodical approach to nursery work lent itself very well to detailed work, and as such, she spent much of her time on the important task of propagating seed over the fall, winter, and early spring. Franziska has an enthusiasm for all things living, and her positive outlook on life translated to coming to the garden each day with a smile. Two days after her final day at the garden, Franziska boarded a plane to London, where she began interning in the tropical nursery at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew. Franziska intends to apply next year for a long-term educational program at Kew Gardens following her tropical nursery internship. We already miss Franziska, and we wish her all of the best in her endeavors.

Enter Aaron Williamson, who was kindly introduced on Franziska’s last day. A colleague of Franziska, Aaron has been studying botany and ecology at Santa Rosa Junior College. Following the upcoming academic year, Aaron intends to apply to UC Davis to complete his Bachelor’s Degree in Plant Biology. Ultimately, Aaron would love to pursue a graduate degree at UC Davis. Aaron has come to the nursery at the perfect time. He has a great interest in learning more about plant propagation, and the summer cutting season has just begun. We look forward to working with Aaron through the summer and into the next academic year. Welcome to Quarryhill, Aaron!

Earth Day Celebration, April 20, 2013

This year’s Earth Day Celebration drew an audience of over 600 people of all ages - that is more than any other Quarryhill Earth Day Celebration thus far!

There were fun activities for all, and an incredibly successful plant sale! When asked, "what was your favorite part this year," most would agree that the lion and chinese youth dance performed by the Redwood Empire Chinese Association left a lasting impression, but with so many activities, such as storytelling, origami, fava bean planting, flower BINGO, face painting, name-the-lion contest, a raffle and color-your-own dragon masks to name a few, it was nearly impossible to narrow it down to just one favorite. And in addition to all the fun-filled activities, we had some great vendors, too! The success of the event was in large part due to all of our amazing volunteers who helped pull it off! We can't thank you enough!
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
Quarryhill Botanical Garden's

Wild Collections,
Expeditions for Education Fundraiser

See you next year!

SAVE THE DATE:
May 17th, 2014

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EVENTS
CALENDAR

July/August

July 20th - Flower Essence workshop with Kathleen Aspenn $10/$15
July 27th - Conifer Day with Master Gardener, Sara Malone FREE
August 24th - Culinary Herb Talk with Master Gardener, Janet Barocco FREE

September

September 7th - Directors Reception Invitation Only
September 12th - Fall Garden Tour $125/$145
September 28th - Japanese Maple Talk with Master Gardener, Kim Pearson FREE
September 29th - Chinese Medicinal Plant Walk with Peggy Schafer $10/$15

Save the Date

2nd Annual Wild Collections, Expeditions for Education
May 17, 2014

Call 707.996.3166 to register, or for more info go to quarryhillbg.org

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