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

Winter 2010 - 2011

Volume 7, Issue 4

The Quarryhill Quarterly

Fragrance in the Garden
William McNamara, Executive Director

Although our initial impression of a garden is always visual, as we see the contrasting colors, structures, and spacial dimensions, our other senses add profoundly to the experience. Our ears catch numerous sounds of birds calling and leaves rustling in the wind or crunching beneath our feet. The many textured leaves seem to call out for us to touch them as we meander by, while the path under our feet welcomes us in varying degrees of softness. Occasionally we sample a flower, leaf, or fruit, and in so doing we might enjoy the tart apple taste of a rose hip. But the sense that seems to stay with us and provide the strongest and most lasting memories is our sense of smell. All of us have experienced the sensation of being taken back by something we smell, sometimes many years, to a vivid memory. Even the briefest whiff of something can often transport us to a place or strong emotion, be it the luxurious kitchen aroma of a favorite dish that your mother made, or the warm melting scent of a first love, or the too clean fragrance of your first new car.

It is believed that we can distinguish between more than 10,000 different odors. Despite this, we tend to describe our world in terms of what we see and hear. I suggest that we indulge this often overlooked sense and give our formidable sense of smell a chance. What better place, then, to let one's nose take center stage and to follow the cliché "take time to smell the roses," than during a stroll through Quarryhill.

Quarryhill has an abundance of fragrances to both delight and offend our powerful sense of smell. I always savor, in a childishly perversive way, the suggestion to visitors that they rub their fingers on the leaves of Clerodendrum bungei and then bring them to their nose. Their utterance of "God, that's disgusting!" always brings a smile to my face. I then tell them that some say it smells of a bad mixture of vitamins and peanut butter. In contrast, when in flower, I never hesitate to take visitors to inhale the rich perfume of our Magnolia wilsonii. I then listen as they try to describe the scent, stumbling with words such as "rose-like, or maybe gardenia, with a touch of lemon." But there is strong competition among the magnolias, for who can resist the almost overbearing scent of Magnolia doltsopa or the crisp sweet smell of Magnolia maudiae, their fragrances trumpeting the arrival of spring. The almost too sweet aroma of Pittosporum brevicalyx always takes me by surprise as I can smell it 30 or 40 feet away. It then always lures me to its small clusters of yellow flowers where its sweetness almost makes me dizzy. As if to snap me out of my delectable dream, several of our viburnums smell like dirty socks, especially when it's warm and wet. Our roses, beginning with Rosa chinensis var. spontanea in March, add the classic, unforgettable fragrance known to us all. Can a garden truly be a garden if it lacks the romantic essence of a rose? Crush the leaves of any of our four species of Zanthoxylum and you'll get a luxuriant citrus odor. The dried fruit follicles of one species, Zanthoxylum bungeanum, is an important spice in much of China, called huā jiāo. It is always fun to spot a visitor with rusty brown pollen on their nose from getting too close to a Lilium leucanthum to catch a whiff of its elegant bouquet. This is just one of our many very fragrant lilies.

Quarryhill has a classic design flaw by planting the delightful climber Jasminum officinale just across the path from a fast growing and strong scented Toona sinensis. We didn't notice our blunder until Continued on page 2
Fragrance in the Garden  Continued from page 1

the Toona was old enough to flower and then the air was filled with the aroma of garlic clashing with the splendid perfume of jasmine. In late summer, the bright orange fruits of Broussonetia papyrifera give off a heavy fermenting odor as they litter the ground. Nearby, the large yellow fruits of Chaenomeles japonica fill the air with a curious heavy sweetness. The fruits of this beautiful shrub have long been used to make delicious jams. The fast growing Houttuynia cordata always raises eyebrows, with some liking the strong pungent aroma, and others detesting the smell, sensing a slight odor of bad fish. Both the leaves and the rhizomes of this plant are popular foods in China and elsewhere in Southeast Asia. It is also an important medicine in China.

The queen of scents at Quarryhill, though, is the magical fragrance that tantalizes as one wanders near the Cercidiphyllum japonicum. Especially strong in the late summer and early fall as the leaves are turning and beginning to drop, some say it reminds them of burnt sugar, while others say cotton candy or fresh strawberries. Whatever it reminds them of, they all delight in its perfume, and it no doubt instills in their memory the desire to return to Quarryhill.

The Little Garden That Could

Recently, Quarryhill has been recognized by two major worldwide surveys of effective ex situ conservation efforts. Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) first created a red list of plants by family, identifying the species that are most threatened. Then, the organization collected data from over 200 gardens worldwide, ranking each of their collections by diversity, rarity, and quantity. Among the gardens surveyed were Kew, Edinburgh, Missouri, Arnold, and many other major international institutions. Quarryhill ranked among the top ten in both the magnolia and maple surveys. As number 9 on the survey of magnolia collections, we are also recognized as one of the two most important collections in this country, and as number 3 in the survey of ex situ maple collections, we are surpassed in the world only by Arnold Arboretum at Harvard, and the University of British Columbia. This is a major feat for our little (and young) garden that could, and the man who has driven our collections program, congratulations Quarryhill and Bill.

Thank You, Fall Interns!

This fall, Quarryhill has been fortunate to work with two students from Santa Rosa Junior College: Janet Parmer and Joel Gallegos. Both are pursuing certificates in Environmental Horticulture. The pursuit of an internship is supplemental to a student’s curriculum at SRJC, and an investment of 60 hours over one semester is required to earn one unit of credit. Students develop four learning objectives and an Intern Project with their supervisor, and are required to complete a report on the project. The studies we develop with our interns are designed to have educational value for them and further Quarryhill’s mission.

In the garden, Janet has been involved in collecting herbarium specimens from deciduous magnolias for deposit in three herbaria, including the California Academy of Sciences. Janet has also elected to become involved with both Quarryhill’s elementary education program and adult tour program by participating in tours. In the nursery, Janet is executing an experiment in the shade house to evaluate weed control in containers using crushed walnut shell mulch, and in the greenhouse she is experimenting with different stem cutting methods. Janet is a Petaluma resident, and has many years of experience as a daily newspaper reporter, feature writer, TV news producer, and public relations consultant, skills that she lent us in the creation of a public relations plan that she outlined for Quarryhill as part of her course. She has a lifelong love of plants and gardening, and is enthusiastic about her education for a new career in horticulture.

Joel Gallegos has spent all of his time in Quarryhill’s nursery. He is constructing a new mist chamber for stem cuttings, has installed a new irrigation injector in the greenhouse, is evaluating the crushed walnut shell mulch with Janet, and experimenting with different stem cutting methods. Joel also resides in Petaluma and is co-owner of Ascus Nursery in Healdsburg. Ascus is a mail order nursery specializing in wine grape and olive bonsai, as well as specimen citrus trees for the garden and patio.

We are very grateful for the time Janet and Joel have invested with us this fall. They have assisted us with some very needed and important tasks, and we hope to have succeeded in enriching their horticultural education. If it is any indicator, both have expressed interest in continuing to participate at Quarryhill after their internships are complete. We sincerely thank them both.
The Heritage Rose Garden will trace the lineage of hybrid tea roses back to their Chinese ancestry, and expand the scope, beauty, and accessibility of our public garden. These generous donations have taken us most of the way toward breaking ground on this exciting new project. Help us to realize this vision and become a lasting part of it. Dedicate a paver or a brick to honor or memorialize a loved one, or celebrate a special occasion. Or join our honor plaque - a lasting acknowledgement of our gratitude to our donors.

Dedication Opportunity

Special Recognition $5000 +

Engraved Stone Paver $1000

Engraved Brick $500

Honor Plaque $250

Contact Quarryhill to arrange for your dedication
707-996-3166 or info@quarryhillbg.org

Thank You

Cassandra and William B. Bernstein
Mary and Mike Benziger
Kimberly and Simon Blattner
Dana and Rick Dirickson
Lexie Ellsworth
Karen Ernsberger
Cynthia Evans
Anne Halstead
Joan Harris
Troy and Steven Hightower
Susan and Stafford Keegin
Sally J. MacBride
Doris and Ronald Middlebrook
Willa and Ned Mundell
Christine and Michael Murray
Jane Mraz
Sara Ann and Cornelius Ough
Jamal and Tom Perkins
Sherry Perkins
Beverly and Bill Raaka
Mabeth and Bill Sanderson
Deborah and Harvey Shein
Robert Smith
The Taicang Agricultural Commission
The John Kirkpatrick Trust
Sarah Vella
Lorraine Wedekind
Fran and Cameron Wolfe, Jr.

Blueprint image adapted from design by MacNair Landscape Architecture
New Volunteer Open House

February 18, 2011, 5 - 7 pm. Free, RSVP Requested.

Would you like to join Quarryhill volunteers in the many valuable ways that they support the garden? If so, come to this informal meeting to discover the possibilities inherent and meet the people involved. There are opportunities to assist in scientific monitoring, teaching elementary school students, guiding hikes, and in nursery and non-profit operations. Share refreshments and stories of how our volunteers conserve biodiversity, build job skills, and have fun doing it!

Docent Training Course

March 5, 12, 19, & 26, 2011, 9 am - 12 pm.

The annual training program for prospective tour docents will take place over the four Saturdays of March. Docents are needed to lead both standard adult tours and education tours for 4th and 5th grade students. Training emphasizes Quarryhill’s history, its valuable Asian plant collection, and the garden’s mission to educate our visitors about the beautiful and endangered flora of East Asia. After completing the course, graduates will assist veteran docents and quickly gain hands-on experience, confidently progressing to become invaluable ambassadors of Quarryhill’s mission and vision.

As thanks, docents receive a free membership and all associated discounts and privileges, including admission to over 200 public gardens and arboreta nationwide.

Sonoma County Master Gardeners are now more involved than ever at Quarryhill. Always welcome as volunteers, they are now sponsoring our Elementary Education Program and will receive recertification credits as they provide basic education for 4th & 5th grade students in ecology, conservation, & botany.

Quarryhill Volunteers

As you can see, our volunteers outnumber our small staff many times over. We could not accomplish all we do without your participation!

Art Acosta
Carol Anderson
Kathleen Aspenns
Liz Barnes
Chris & Scott Barnes
Cheryl Belitsky
Mary Boehm
Carol Brant
Oralia Briggs
Pat Brownlie
Alan Brubaker
Nancy Bruce
Kathleen Bunse
Michele Burton
Mary Kate Carter
Stephanie Clark
Gay Collins
Stephanie Correia
Barbara Daly
Marie Duca
Patricia & Steve Edelstein
Jim Ethridge
Jeanette Evans
Mary Fazekas
Susan Fletcher
Lisa Floyd
Christie Flum
Sherry & Michael Franchetti
Peter Fritsch
Reggie Gasaway
Helen Giss
J. Claire Green
Kate Hale
Yvonne Hall

Josephine Nickolai (pictured at far left) passed away in late October at her home in Sonoma. She was 106 years old. Jo was Quarryhill’s very first volunteer, along with her daughter Dorothy (upper right). Jo and Dorothy began volunteering for Quarryhill in the winter of 1988 helping with transplanting seedlings in the fledgling nursery. The two of them volunteered for many years and only stopped helping as Jo approached 100 years of age. She lived a long full life and loved coming to Quarryhill. One of her great joys was riding around on the electric cart seeing and admiring the many plants that she nursed along in the nursery. She loved and referred to them as her children. Her kindness, gentleness, warm smile, and love of life were a great inspiration for all of us at Quarryhill.
Plants are ubiquitous. They are woven into the fabric of life—our clothing, our shelter, our diets, our oxygen, our art, our medicine, and indeed, our future. We are so fortunate to welcome three local speakers who will explain how the plant kingdom has informed their own accomplished work in the fields of art, design, and literature. Please join us as we find these intersections, and with them, more reasons to advance the conservation, study, and cultivation of the flora of Asia.

Lectures will begin at 5:30 pm at Quarryhill
$10 Members, $15 Non-members, Docents Free
Space is limited, call to reserve

Fireside Chat, March 4, 2011, 5:00 pm
Featuring Jim Folsom, Director of the Huntington Botanical Gardens
Reception following presentation
$25 Members, $50 Non-members, space is limited, call to reserve

We are fortunate to have engaged Huntington Botanical Gardens Director and botanist Jim Folsom to speak for our 2011 Fireside Chat. Jim received his PhD in botany from the University of Texas at Austin and has been honored by the Southern California Horticultural Society, the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, and the American Horticultural Society for his leadership in the field of public horticulture. Jim has established the Huntington as a national leader in botanical research and education by spearheading projects like the Botanical Center (opened in 2000), the Children’s Garden (opened in June 2004) and the Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science (opened in October 2005), aiming to educate new generations of youngsters in basic plant science. Most recently, he and his team are lauded for the extraordinary Liu Fang Yuan or Garden of Flowing Fragrance (opened in 2008, and pictured above). His travels and his gardens at the Huntington span the globe, and we look forward to his insights during the presentation and reception at Quarryhill Botanical Garden.

Horticulture Series

Plants are ubiquitous. They are woven into the fabric of life—our clothing, our shelter, our diets, our oxygen, our art, our medicine, and indeed, our future. We are so fortunate to welcome three local speakers who will explain how the plant kingdom has informed their own accomplished work in the fields of art, design, and literature. Please join us as we find these intersections, and with them, more reasons to advance the conservation, study, and cultivation of the flora of Asia.

March 17, 2011 Terese Tse Bartholomew Curator Emeritus of Himalayan Art & Chinese Decorative Art Asian Art Museum of San Francisco Botanical Meanings in Chinese Art

April 21, 2011 Paul Discoe Temple Builder, Author, and Owner of Joinery Structures Reverence for Materials in Zen Architecture

May 19, 2011 Anthony Eglin Author of the English Garden Mystery Series The Novel Garden
Events Calendar

February
18 - New Docent Open House  
Free

March
4 - Fireside Chat - Jim Folsom  
$25/ $50
17 - HortiCulture - Terese Tse Bartholomew  
$10/ $15
19 - Third Saturday Docent Tour  
Free/ $10

April
9 - Hanging Basket Workshop - Kathleen Bunte  
TBD
16 - Third Saturday Docent Tour  
Free/ $10
21 - HortiCulture - Paul Discoe  
$10/ $15
23 - Earth Day Celebration  
Free

May
14 - Hypertufa Workshop, Part 1 - Shigeo Kubota  
$40/ $50 for the series
19 - HortiCulture - Anthony Eglin  
$10/ $15
21 - Third Saturday Docent Tour  
Free/ $10
21 - Hypertufa Workshop, Part 2 - Shigeo Kubota  

June
4 - Spring Celebration  
TBD
18 - Third Saturday Docent Tour  
Free/ $10