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.
2014 was a time of great change for Quarryhill. Visitors to the garden no doubt witnessed the arrival of Bruce Johnson’s large and very impressive sculptures last spring and lately they would have seen the new entry under construction. Many new plants and new plant signs were added and, of course, the garden continued to grow. In fact, gardens are always changing – or are they? We often confuse gardens with wild nature, which is always changing, not just through the seasons, but in every way imaginable. Gardening is, in many ways, an attempt to control nature, an attempt to make it look and stay a certain way. But gardens don’t “want” to be static and our attempts to control them often fail miserably. One of the best comments I ever heard about gardening was by a gentleman in Diamond A that told me he had spent the first 10 years trying to get everything to grow and the last 10 years trying to get it to stop. However, despite our attempts to control nature in our gardens, they still provide, in much the same way that nature does, a place of respite. They often cause us “to stop and smell the roses,” to slow us down from our busy lives, and to make us aware of the beauty all around us. City planners understand this well and know the importance of parks in our urban centers. We are drawn to wild nature and gardens for the conscious and unconscious pleasures they give us. Depending on the time of day, time of year, or time in one’s life, wild nature and gardens can transport us to another time or a distant memory, or cause us to simply enjoy the present moment alone, or with a friend or loved one.

Something wonderful happens when we feel the leaves of a plant as we walk by, or delight in the fragrance of a flower, or stand in awe at the magnificence of a large tree. What is it about the color green in its many shades that entices us and contrasts beautifully with the blue sky and puffs of white clouds, or the wonderful freshness and sweet air of the garden after a heavy downpour? For me, it is the awareness that I am connected to and even dependent on the life all around me, in all of its manifestations. And this is why I love Quarryhill. It is somewhere between a garden and wild nature. It is a place where the plants display their beauty and significance in an uncontrolled way, allowing all of us to be in their primeval company.

Bill McNamara, Executive Director

With funds received from the Franklinia Foundation I was in Myanmar for fieldwork in April and again in October. The first part of the trip was to investigate and sort out logistics for a return in the fall. There were two goals of the expedition, first, to collect seeds in the mountains of northern Myanmar, northeast of the small town of Putao, and second, to collect seeds of the tea rose, *Rosa odorata* var. *gigantea*, one of the key wild ancestors of modern roses, in the Shan Hills of central eastern Myanmar. The first part required a difficult hike over several days to areas near the border of China and India in the foothills of the Himalayas. It was a pristine road less region with an exceedingly rich and diverse flora. I was able to make several collections even though it appeared to be a poor year for seed production. For example, I saw several maples, but found only a few seeds on only one tree. Seeds of several herbaceous plants were collected along with four different magnolias.

The second half of the journey in the Shan Hills, to collect *Rosa odorata* var. *gigantea*, was equally successful. *Rosa odorata* var. *gigantea* is not only the largest rose plant in the world, climbing into trees to over 50 feet, it also has the largest flower of any wild rose, up to 5.5 inches across. The only known collection of this rose in Myanmar was in 1888 by Sir Henry Collett and he noted then that it was very common. However, after a lengthy search last April, I found it only on one mountain with the curious name “Gold Mystique Flowering Mountain”. It appears to have disappeared from its previous range due to massive slash and burn activities, logging, and agricultural and urban expansion. I managed to collect numerous seeds, though most of the fruits had already dropped to the ground.

One climber, in particular, had fruits almost twice the size of all the others. All of these collections will make valuable additions to Quarryhill.

Bill McNamara, Executive Director
During 2014, Quarryhill continued to fulfill its mission by contributing plant material for scientific research and promoting widespread cultivation of its collection through the sharing of plant material to scientists and gardens, worldwide.

Locally, Quarryhill has long partnered with UC Berkeley by exchanging seed, cuttings and plants, resulting in many years of mutual support. Elaine Sedlack, in particular, director of the UC Botanical Garden’s Asian section, in Berkeley, has been a driving force behind this cooperation, providing Quarryhill with numerous selections from their prolific nursery as well as receiving countless Quarryhill accessions used to supplement their impressive collection. Among other US gardens and nurseries receiving donations of Quarryhill plant material last year is Far Reaches Farm in Washington state.

An Index Seminum is a list of available seed from a botanical institution, often at no cost, directed to other institutions and individuals interested in obtaining seed to supplement inventory, perform scientific research, or simply add interest and variety to a collection. Over the years, Quarryhill has received numerous wild-origin accessions from Indices Seminum offered by gardens and institutions such as Chiba University, Kyoto University, Ofuna Botanical Garden and Toyama Botanic Gardens in Japan, Chollipo Arboretum and Jeju Botanical Garden in South Korea, Beijing Botanical Garden and Shanghai Botanic Garden in China, Taiwan Forestry Research Institute, and Magnolia Society International.

Quarryhill has, for many years, also shared both wild-origin seed acquired from its own collecting and open-pollinated (non-wild) seed collected here at the garden with other institutions and individuals. In 2014, the Cal Hort Society twice received a large number and variety of Quarryhill seed in order to make Index Seminum offerings to their members.

Lastly, Quarryhill continues to provide researchers with plant material for DNA extractions and morphological analysis used in systematics research, the study of taxonomic relationships. This year, Quarryhill supplied *Taiwania cryptomerioides* cuttings to botanist John Silba, a well-known plant author and leading figure in the taxonomic work of conifers, and *Illicium religiosum* foliar samples to Tennessee State University for DNA analysis.
Education Update

Quarryhill’s elementary education program is experiencing another successful academic year! Focused principally on 4th and 5th grade students from Sonoma County, we host tours up to twice weekly for 23 weeks in the fall and spring. We are now on track to host close to 1,400 students from fall 2014 to spring 2015 up 20% from the previous academic year. This increase in student visitation has been supported by both your generous financial donations and by our dedicated youth education docents. Your financial contributions help us to fund everything from bus transportation – a critical, costly need for up to 50% of visiting classes – to student supplies and more. These contributions have also allowed us to expand our marketing activities, including efforts focused on education docent recruitment and training. These efforts have proven fruitful, and we’ve come the closest yet to comfortably matching our docent supply with local demand in student visitation. Our upcoming spring session, beginning in March, is our largest, to date. If you’d be interested in working with elementary youth in the garden, we need you!

Appreciation Due

Last year, we saw another significant increase in our volunteer corps. Comprised of nursery workers, education and tour docents, flower phenology trackers, photographers, office and mailing assistants, event facilitators, cart drivers who provide garden access for those in need, dead-headers of the floral kind, board members, and much more, we are constantly reminded of how our day-to-day successes are due, in large part, to this dedicated group. In 2014, our volunteers each donated more than 50 hours, on average, and some individuals gave 200 hours or more. In equivalence, our volunteer team surpassed the hourly contributions of two full-time staff members. Thank you all for helping us make 2014 one of our most successful years yet. You are an inspiration to us!

QUARRYHILL’S VOLUNTEERS
Tireless Supporters, We Thank You Profoundly!

Art Acosta
Suzanne Adams
Irene Angé
Kathleen Aspens
Chris & Scott Barnes
Cyrie Barnes
Liz Barnes
Morgen Benoit
Mary Boehm
Carol Brant
John Breglio
Alan Brubaker
Cathy & Stephen Buffy
Brian Burns
Michele Burton
Julie Cade
Mary Kate Carter
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Gaius Robinson
Robin Rogers
Linda Romero
Lori Ross
Janet Sanchez
Sam Schrock
Hema Shende
Barbara Spoltoson
Cathy Stevenson
Teresa Suarez
Stephanie Sugars
Jenna Svobodova
Cynthia Thomassen
Jim Tonery
Betz Tyler
Adie Varin
Liz Vaughn
Ina Welker
Gail West
Rose West
Sandy White
Julia & Philip Wilkinson
Aaron Williamson
Tina Yesson
Pat Young

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Making a Difference

With the help of Volunteers, Staff, Board Members, and the unbelievable contributions of our amazing sponsors and donors, our 2nd annual Wild Collections Expeditions for Education Fundraiser was an overwhelming success!

The funds raised at this very special event go towards improving and expanding Quarryhill’s youth science education program, as well as advancing the knowledge of our staff on the subject of environmental education, so that we may further improve the methods used in this program.

While supporting a great cause is reason enough to attend, it is looking like 2015 is going to be yet another great must-attend party! We don’t want to give away all of our secrets, but let’s just say that the keynote speaker will be the Queen’s Botanist and there will be special guests from two top rated TV shows: America’s Got Talent and the Food Network. Many people who attended last year said, “it was one of the best fundraisers they went to all year,” so don’t miss out!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL WILD COLLECTIONS, EXPEDITIONS FOR EDUCATION FUNDRAISER SATURDAY, MAY 16TH TO BUY YOUR TICKETS CALL 707.996.3166

Staff Education

Crystal Helmer, Marketing Director, attended the “Everyday Magic” annual APGA conference in Denver, Colorado in June, 2014. While there, she attended workshops, exhibits, and keynote speaker conferences which covered various garden enhancement topics.

Head of Horticulture, Howard Higson, attended a 3-day APGA symposium in Washington, DC, in November, focusing on plant collections management. Topics covered included: digitization of plant data, GIS garden mapping and specimen imaging; development of interpretive and educational materials suited to encourage accessible, hands-on, interactive and immersive visitor experiences that connect the public with collections in meaningful ways; development of interactive online resources for website visitors; and collection strategies that conform to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the soon-to-be-ratified Nagoya Protocol.
How Our Funds Are Used:

It costs nearly $3,000 per day to maintain and operate the 62 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 a fraction of what is needed to properly care for our unique Sonoma Valley treasure.

We need the support of members and donors to continue our work wild-collecting seeds, conserving endangered plants, supporting scientific research, and educating adults and children on the importance of plants and their habitats to the earth and its humans.

INCOME:

- Donations & Gifts: 27%
- Dividends & Interest: 14%
- Events & Rentals: 15%
- Memberships: 14%
- Grants: 8%
- Vineyard Sales: 7%
- Visitor Fees: 5%
- Gift Shop/Plant Sales: 9%

EXPENSES:

- Garden Maintenance: 23%
- Science: 14%
- Elementary Education: 14%
- Conservation: 8%
- Fundraising: 10%
- Tours, Public Programs: 14%
- Administration: 8%
- Field Exploration: 5%

Consider The Legacy You’ll Leave

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

If Quarryhill is important to you because of its beauty, serenity, and 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.

Supporters who make planned or legacy gifts become members of the Magnolia Circle, Quarryhill’s legacy society that honors those who help ensure the garden’s continued survival. 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. Call 707.996.3166 or visit our website at quarryhillbg.org for more information.
MAJOR DONORS
We sincerely thank all donors and contributors, with special thanks to the following major donors who contributed $500 or more during 2014:

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ADVANCING THE CONSERVATION, STUDY AND CULTIVATION OF THE FLORA OF ASIA

FOR MORE INFO CALL 707.996.3166 OR VISIT QUARRYHILLBG.ORG

The Gift Shop Is Now Open Daily

As the visitation continued to grow in 2014, so did the need to keep the Quarryhill gift shop open more often. Now, you can visit the Visitor Center/Gift Shop every time you visit the garden. In fact, we kindly ask that all guests, including members, check in at the Visitor Center before heading into the garden. We would like to say hello and take note of your visit.

Star Volunteers

Each year, the Sonoma Valley Fund holds an event to honor volunteers at Sonoma Valley non-profits by presenting them with a Star Award for their volunteer service. In past years, Quarryhill volunteers Gaius Robinson, Marilyn Smith, Steven Hightower, Rosemary McCreary, Pat Edelstein, Lori Ross, and Jefra Parlett have been honored. In 2014, Quarryhill was proud to honor Quarryhill volunteer Thora Graves with the Star Award. Thora has been volunteering at Quarryhill for the last three years, greeting visitors and offering cart rides up into the garden. Always with a kind smile and a friendly demeanor, she is the perfect first impression for many of our visitors. She has also volunteered many weekends in the Visitor Center & Gift Shop answering questions about Quarryhill. Thora has told us that being in the garden and meeting visitors has had a profound positive impact on her life and health, which is readily apparent to everyone she meets. The ceremony to honor Sonoma Valley volunteers took place on Sunday, September 14 at the new Sonoma Valley Community Health Center.