

## MSI Board Member Receives Prestigious Award



Rebecca Chapp, President of Swarthmore College (L) and Clarie Sawyers, Director of Scott Arboretum (R) with Bill McNamara at Scott Award ceremony

On Sunday, March 14, 2010, explorer, dedicated botanist, and talented horticulturist, William McNamara, the 2010 recipient of the Scott Medal and Award spoke on issues about which he is passionate, and how these passions have shaped his life. Mr. McNamara is described by Robert Turner, Jr., editor of *Pacific Horticulture*, as "one of the foremost American ambassadors to Asia. He has partnered with other gardens in the United Kingdom and the

United States, strengthening international relationships while furthering the pursuit of botany, natural history and the conservation of biodiversity."

William A. McNamara began his career in the horticultural industry at Wedekind's Nursery in retail nursery marketing, and then continued at Con Mara Gardens in the landscape contracting business. These experiences culminated at Quarryhill Botanical Garden working with garden founder, Jane Jansen. Mr. McNamara has been contributing his talents to Quarryhill for 20 years, starting with the initial conception of ideas for the garden and promoting its evolving development. His current mission is to advance the conservation, study, and cultivation of temperate flora of Asia. While working in a variety of roles at the garden, Mr. McNamara completed more than 20 expeditions to Asia to conserve and document valuable and endangered flora. In 2007, he was appointed Executive Director.

His efforts have done "a lot of capacity building with local scientists and communities that bridges the plant conservation society of America and China," according to Yuming Yang, Vice President, Southwest Forestry University. Along with the California Academy of Sciences, Mr. McNamara has developed a database of Asian plants in cultivation, which has been an invaluable resource to botanists throughout the world.

Through Mr. McNamara's leadership, Quarryhill Botanical Garden has become "a significant contemporary botanical garden of global significance," summarizes the late Peter Wharton, curator of David C. Lam Asian Garden in Vancouver, B.C. In addition to developing *ex situ* col-

lections of Asian plants at Quarryhill, and aiding the Chinese in development of their *in situ* preservation, his commitment to conservation includes preserving critically endangered forests and tree specimens. Most notably is the highly endangered, *Acer pentaphyllum*, which faces extinction in the next ten years.

Mr. McNamara graduated from the University of California Berkeley with a B.A. in English. In 2005, he was awarded an M.A. in Conservation Biology at Sonoma State University. In 2009, the Garden Club of America recognized his efforts with the Eloise Payne Luger Medal. He has served on the boards of the Saratoga Horticultural Research Foundation and the Arboretum Associates at the University of California-Santa Cruz Arboretum. Presently he serves as a director for the Magnolia Society International and Field Associate of the Department of Botany of the California Academy of Sciences.

The Scott Arboretum proudly awarded the 2010 Scott Medal and Award to William A. McNamara who, as stated by arborist, lecturer and long-time Quarryhill supporter Ted Kipping, "...more than fulfills the Scott ideal of an explorer/scientist/gardener who has devoted his life and considerable personal energies to the furtherance of botany and horticulture."

*Editor's Note: This announcement is courtesy of Swarthmore College.*



Photos by Bill McNamara of *Magnolia wilsonii*, described in Bill's article on page 1

### **Errata:**

Please note that in the article "The Second International Symposium on the Family Magnoliaceae" by Beth Edward (Volume 44 Issue No. 86) the spelling of a Chinese county name on page 26 was incorrect. The county name is spelled as "Xichou", not "Xizhou". Our apologies for any confusion this may have caused.