



Newsletter

of the **American Magnolia Society**

President: John M. Fogg, Jr., Director,
Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia 18, Pa.

Secretary-Treasurer: D. Todd Gresham,
103 Frederick St., Santa Cruz, Calif.

That Elusive Finding List

JOHN M. FOGG, JR., Director

The Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

WHEN THIS SOCIETY WAS ORGANIZED IN 1962 one of the first projects suggested for its consideration was the preparation of a Finding List of Magnolias for the use of our members. Many of you have written to your officers asking where this or that particular species or variety could be obtained and, since the Morris Arboretum is the International Registration Authority for cultivar names in Magnolia, it was naturally assumed that we here could supply this information. Unfortunately, many of the names in our file appeared in the earlier literature and the plants to which they referred are in many cases no longer in existence. This is true, for example, of the 17 names for cultivars of *Magnolia grandiflora* which appeared in Nehrling's "My Garden in Florida" in 1944. His son, Otto Nehrling, informs me that probably not a single one of these is available today.

In other instances the sponsor of a new cultivar may have registered and described it, but is not yet in a position to distribute plants or to provide cuttings.

In the spring of 1964 your president naively decided that something could and should be done about this and took unto himself the task of compiling a Finding List to be printed in this NEWSLETTER. He wrote a letter which was sent to more than one hundred carefully selected nurserymen and growers throughout the country. This letter set forth the advantages to both producer and consumer of having available a list of all cultivated species, hybrids, varieties and cultivars of *Magnolia* and earnestly solicited their cooperation.

Accompanying the letter was a blank sheet, with the return address, so that all the recipient had to do was to fill in the names of those Magnolias which he had in stock and return the form to the Morris Arboretum.

The results of this effort were most disappointing. Out of over a hundred mailings only some 30 replies were received. Several of these were from nurseries which operate

on a wholesale basis and which said they were unable to sell plants to individuals. Still others reported that they carried only three or four standard types, such as *stellata*, *Soulangiana rustica*, *virginiana*, and *grandiflora*.

Then complications of another sort arose: One reputable nursery listed *M. obovata* among its offerings but, upon critical examination, the entire stock proved to be *M. tripetala*.

Another nursery submitted a list of a score or more of Magnolias but, upon receiving an order for many of these, stated that it stocked only two or three, but that it would be glad to start propagating the others when it was convinced that there was a market for them. Throughout all of this there was revealed an appalling dearth of the more interesting and unusual forms which are on the desiderata lists of so many of our members.

In the face of these frustrations, the attempt to compile a representative Finding List has come to a grinding halt.



Magnolia Kobus
Morris Arboretum

Photo: Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.

It is to be hoped that among our members there may be some who can propose a more effective method for obtaining this information. It may be that those of you who know what Magnolias a reputable nursery has to offer would be willing to supply us, or have the grower furnish us, with a list which could be printed in these pages. As others followed suit we could eventually develop a Directory which would be of inestimable value to all prospective buyers, whether individuals, botanical gardens, arboreta, or park systems. Other plant societies have found ways in which to solve this problem and, although ours is one of the youngest, I am convinced that it possesses the resources to overcome this difficulty.

Magnolias In Michigan

PART II. THE BUERGERIA SECTION (Cont'd)

PHILIP J. SAVAGE, JR.
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

M. Biondii was found in the central Chinese province of Hupeh by the Italian botanist Sylvestri in 1906. The following year Ernest H. Wilson also described it, and he and Alfred Rehder named it *M. aulacosperma*. Several years later the duplication was discovered, and *Biondii* was determined to have prior claim as the specific name.

I have never seen *M. Biondii*, although it is "in cultivation" in both America and England. It is said to be almost identical with *M. salicifolia* and is by some regarded as merely the Chinese race of that plant, not specifically distinct from it. It would be interesting to know if its leaves have the same strong anise odor when crushed. Growing as far north as Shen-si province, it must be very cold-hardy.

Magnolia Society member Gus Krossa is a very interesting and friendly retired businessman who lives in a beauti-

ful beech woods in the Detroit suburb of Livonia. In what amounts to a private botanical garden, Gus has many unusual Magnolias, among which are two fine specimens of the species *cylindrica*. (See figure). These were grown from seed obtained from the Lu-Shan Botanical Garden, in Kiu Kiang, China, in 1936. The largest tree is about thirty feet high and very vigorous. It has been completely hardy. The April, 1964, issue of the American Horticultural Magazine contains a short article which Gus wrote about this and another Magnolia, with some good pictures of the two species in bloom. Growing as an understory in virgin beech woods, these plants have done remarkably well. I am sure they would have grown larger, and flowered more in full sunshine but even as woodland plants they are superb.

M. cylindrica was apparently first described by Wilson in 1927, although it seems incredible that a distinctive species like this, native over a large area of eastern China, should have escaped botanical description that long. Perhaps the elusive *M. Zenii*, assigned at present to the section Yulania, and native to the same area, is actually this species, since the flowers of Gus Krossa's plants superficially resemble blooms of *M. denudata* more than either *salicifolia* or *Kobus*. Mr. Wilson stated he did not see flowers of this species at the time of his description, and put them down as unknown. His description of the leaves as "thin, narrow and prominently reticulated," is exactly opposite to the way anyone would describe the leaves of Krossa's trees, which are firm and stiff in texture, widely elliptical, and with a notably smooth, almost glossy, upper surface. Wilson went on to say his new species was most closely related to *M. salicifolia*. Dr. J. E. Dandy, on the other hand, feels *M. cylindrica* is more closely allied to *M. Kobus*. Since Krossa's plants have no odor of anise to their crushed leaves, I would certainly favor Dr. Dandy's views. The flowers are beautifully poised, upright on the twigs and hold a more or less "tulip" shape until they drop, in contrast to the carefree, floppy flowers of *salicifolia*. Their petals have a pretty pink spot and stripe at the base, outside, similar to the marking on many *Kobus* and *stellata* petals, and the wood, bark and reaching habit of growth is *Kobus*-like. Surprisingly, the scent of the flowers is the same Bouncing Bet fragrance as the flowers of Overlook Nursery's form of *M. stellata* 'Rubra'.

The widespread use of *M. Kobus* as an understock for various *Soulangiana* and *stellata* cultivars has caused many gardeners to view it in the same way that rosarians regard *Rosa multiflora*, that is, good for its roots only. Anyone harboring this mistaken belief should hurry to beautiful Highland Park in Rochester, New York, and treat himself to the sight of the Hokkaido *Magnolia Kobus borealis*, in its magnificent maturity. Planted in 1914, according to Highland Park's excellent records, this tree was originally pruned to "shrub" form, with five stems. It still has the five sound and vigorous trunks, the largest of which is three feet in diameter, breast-high! Before dividing, close to the ground, the main trunk is at least five feet through. Even with its "giant shrub" shape, this wonderful tree must be close to sixty feet high. (See figure). In August, 1965, its leaves were rich, dark green, undamaged by insects, and as healthy looking as Iowa corn. At least a dozen squirrels were rioting among the numberless fruits. It grows near the parking circle, next to the water reservoir, and is worth



M. cylindrica at Gus Krossa's
Photo: Mr. Philip J. Savage, Jr.



M. x Loebneri 'Dr. Van Fleet'
Photo: Mr. Philip J. Savage, Jr.

traveling from California to see. If you can arrange to meet Mr. Bernard Harkness, while there, you would be well repaid to travel from Hawaii. I spent one of the pleasantest mornings of my life in Bernie's company, enjoying the botanical wonders of this splendid arboretum.

When Dr. J. G. Millais wrote his monumental book "Magnolias", in 1926, he went to considerable length in describing the difference between typical *M. Kobus*, from Honshu, and its variety *borealis*, from the north island of Hokkaido. The latter race he described as much more vigorous, with larger, darker leaves and a tendency to flower as a younger plant. Prof. C. S. Sargent's experiences appeared to confirm this, with his trees of accurately recorded seed origin. On the other hand, the late Mr. G. H. Johnstone seemed to feel that there was insufficient evidence, in England at least, that trees grown from north and south Japan really showed consistent differences.

There are two other specimens of *M. Kobus* in Highland Park, one of which is marked "Hondo" (Honshu). It is of similar age, but only a fraction of the size of the Hokkaido tree, and clearly lacks its abounding vigor. Since the Sika deer, bears, and even the people of Hokkaido average considerably larger than their counterparts in the south islands, it would seem logical that its vegetation would be larger and more vigorous too.

In the park area of Mr. E. N. Stanton's beautiful nursery, "Westcroft Gardens" at Grosse Ile, near Detroit, Michigan, are three trees of *M. Kobus borealis* planted about 1927. Although crowded by other trees, including beech, the largest is about 16 inches in diameter, breast high, and perhaps fifty-five feet high. These trees are beautiful in flower, with a pink stripe on the back of each petal. When in fruit, they attract hordes of purple grackles, who do such a good job of cleaning and scarifying the seed that young seedlings shoot up all over the place and qualify as weeds in Mr. Stanton's strict housekeeping.

Some years ago a dwarf form of *Kobus* turned up in Henry Kohankie's nursery at Painesville, Ohio, and is called *Kobus nana compacta*. It is a curiosity and that's about all.

A far finer form of *Kobus* appeared among some Magnolias from Wada's nursery in Japan, that were lined out at the University of Washington Arboretum, in Seattle. Director Brian Mulligan describes it as an exceptional plant, and has named it 'Wada's Memory'. From a photograph and description Mr. Mulligan sent to the American Nurseryman magazine, this is an exceptional clone of *Kobus*, with flowers almost double the usual size, and produced in great profusion.

When we speak of *Magnolia x Loebneri*, we mean any plant that has *M. Kobus* for one parent, and *M. stellata* for the other. In other words, *Loebneri* is a general name for all clones of this breeding. In similar fashion, all hybrids of *M. salicifolia* and *M. stellata* are properly called *M. x Proctoriana*, and those between *M. Kobus* and *M. salicifolia* are *M. x kewensis*. (See figure).

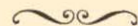
While Dr. Walter Van Fleet was hybridizing his famous roses, and other plants for the U.S.D.A., thirty or forty years ago, he made a carefully controlled cross of *M. Kobus borealis* and *M. stellata* 'Rosea'. The result was written up some years ago in the American Horticultural Magazine. I don't know what company introduced it into the nursery trade, but it is still occasionally available. I have two fair-sized plants, and think they are very pretty with their pinkish flowers, and prim, ultra-symmetrical way of growing. (See figure). A spray of flowers of this cross is pictured on plate XXV of Mr. Douglas Bartrum's interesting book "Rhododendrons and Magnolias."

A splendid contribution from Dr. Karl Sax, of the Arnold Arboretum is *M. x Loebneri* 'Dr. Merrill'. A real commercial plant with fine, big, semi-double flowers and abounding vigor, this clone will be around for a long time to come, and is becoming known in the retail nursery trade.

Magnolia x Proctoriana 'Slovin's Snowy' originated at Rochester's Highland Park and has the look of a giant pyramidal *M. stellata*, very dense and solid. Its leaves have the *salicifolia* anise odor to some extent, when crushed, and the abundant flowers are so large that it was thought for a time *M. Soulangiana* must be one of its parents.

M. x kewensis is not a spectacular Magnolia but has pretty, fragrant white flowers. A nice photograph of these appears in Douglas Bartrum's book, mentioned previously. This book was published by John Gifford LTD., of 125 Charing Cross Road, London W C-2, England, and costs 18/0.

All the species and hybrids of the section *Buergeria* are good-natured, easy to grow plants. I can think of only one characteristic that is not in their favor at year-round ornamentals, and that is their tendency to hang on to large numbers of scrappy looking, blackened seed cones throughout the winter. Surely in this age of agricultural chemicals we can solve this single problem.



Magnolias In British Columbia

GRACE M. CONBOY
South Burnaby, B. C.

MANY PEOPLE DO NOT REALIZE how mild our climate is in British Columbia, with its moderating ocean currents and somewhat sheltered location in the Vancouver area. Last winter was as stiff a winter as we have had in a long time and all the Magnolias I have, except for *M. grandiflora*, came through well. *M. grandiflora* 'St. Mary' lost quite a few twigs and has not made too robust a comeback, despite being in a sheltered location through the winter. To keep it and be able to enjoy it at its best here, I plan to plant it in a patio area that can be kept frost-free in the winter and also have overhead protection for the large blooms when they eventually appear.

I will list other species or hybrids and indicate how they have done here:

(1) Tagged from nursery as *obovata* × *conspicua* (*denudata*), has me puzzled. It has bloomed since very small (about 4 ft.) and the blooms are fairly large, elongated, of a deep rosy red, not really to the purple tone. As both parents (from what I can find) have white blooms, I'm wondering what I have. The type of the shrub is to a number of stocks, rather than a single trunk. In Mr. Savage's "Magnolias in Michigan," Part I, it is possible the rosy-purple forms of *M. denudata* (syn. *conspicua*) 'Lacy's Form' could be very similar as the habit compares. This form of mine produces spasmodic blooms throughout the season. Bloomed profusely with no evident frost damage this year. We had sharp frosts close to 0°, without any snow protection, but, being deciduous, this shrub was probably sufficient dormant to suffer no harm. The leaves are large and the new growth is dark-toned.

(2) *M. × Watsoni* (so tagged), acquired three years ago with the last one, has not bloomed to date. Also deciduous, but a slower growing type, tending to single trunk. No winter damage and moderate growth this year. Leaves tropically large, bronzy in early stages.

(3) *M. conspicua* (so tagged, now *M. denudata* I understand). This has come through the winter fine with no evident damage. The first year in the garden it produced two large slender blooms — creamy white; no bloom the second year. It was moved in May to a more favorable location and produced several small blooms this summer and now shows buds. I feel this could be the type form, petal texture was firm, held well up, chalice-like and having the most delicious citrusy perfume. It is forming a central leader well and has the appearance of becoming a shapely tree.

(4) *M. Soulangeana* 'Lennei Alba' was acquired a year ago May, a rather large near six-foot shrub of good shape. It did not establish too quickly and the hard winter also possibly explains some of the large twig losses. It did have a fair show of bloom this year, which suffered dismally from late frosts. This could be the true "White Lennei"

as the blooms were fairly large, pure white and held up well. It is possible that I have it in a position that gets too much sun without any protection. We have had a fairly dry summer, especially July and September, and I feel it is losing its leaves too early.

(5) *M. stellata* was the second Magnolia acquired. My form has a nice pink tinting to the dainty furry buds as they peep out early in the season. It is in a fairly dry location and I am trying to decide whether I dare move it this fall, but know I won't take the chance. Some people just cannot re-establish this Magnolia from nursery produced stock.

(6) My third acquisition was a gift of an unknown seedling from the University of British Columbia. It has the large leaves of the deciduous types with no identifying feature as yet.

(7) With acquisition of the above, interest in Magnolias gradually increased. I had always admired a lovely very large tree of *M. parviflora* (*M. Sieboldii*) in a good friend's garden. She tried to get a branch layer going but never seemed to be successful. So I was more than tickled to have presented to me three young seedlings from a nurseryman friend's garden last year and to get them planted in what has been a very favorable spot, because one of these little things, barely 15 inches high, produced a cute little round egg-shaped bloom this summer. There were the pretty deep colored stamens and the typical rounded shape of the flower.

(8) Again this year, we were visiting friends who planned on moving, and on admiring the intriguing habit of one of their large shrubs, which I was sure was a Magnolia, was told it was *M. nigra*. (It is more correctly known as *M. liliflora nigra*). The lax but intriguing droop of the branches was in itself attractive and I was so pleased to be offered a lusty well-rooted treelet. This Magnolia has a very distinctly shiny leaf which sets it apart and my robust youngling has grown well this summer.

(9) *M. Sprengeri* 'Diva', (10) *M. × Veitchii* 'Rubra', (11) *M. stellata* 'Rubra', (12) *M. Sargentiana* 'Robusta' and another *M. denudata* were all acquired this spring when I found they were available. These are not commonly available, so we jumped at the chance when a leading nursery got them in. The extra *denudata* form was obtained for comparison as these latter plants came from California stock whereas my first one came from Japanese stock. All these plants have grown fairly well, though I note some worm has left the leaves with only the veins remaining on some of them. I will mulch all of them with peat and mushroom manure this winter and hope they all survive. We have had a fairly dry summer and fall, so this will probably ripen the wood well and, being deciduous, they should come through.

I have tried growing Magnolias from seed but with no germination as yet. Perhaps this is the fault of the seed, but I will keep trying. As I grow a great many rhododendrons, primulas and wild plants, I feel Magnolias are the delightful answer to my shade problem. Of course, I also delight in many varieties of evergreens and other shrubs that work in nicely as a foil.



The Big-Leaf Magnolia

V. B. MANN
Alexandria, Louisiana

Magnolia macrophylla is rapidly becoming extinct in its native habitat. Intensive management of forest lands leads to the cutting or deadening of this unique species of Magnolia.

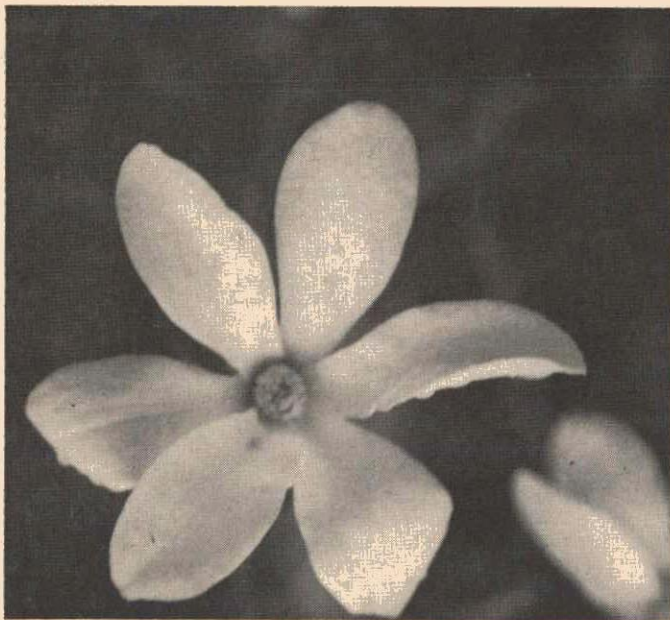
It is primarily a native of the deep South, growing in creek bottoms and lower slopes where the soil is rich and moist. In cultivation, it is adapted to a broad array of soils.

But in its preferred habitat, trees are tall and straight, pushing their way into the upper canopy with the ease of a shade-tolerant species.

Big-leaf Magnolia, as it is often called, is easily distinguished in the growing season by its huge banana-plant like leaves that are up to three feet long and almost one foot wide. In the winter, when the leaves have dropped, the tree is easily overlooked as a rare and beautiful specimen.

Springtime, sometimes even into early summer, is the season of greatest beauty because the giant blooms shine out through the forest. They are snow white, and are 12 inches in diameter — the largest of all Magnolia blooms. This tree, because of its unique beauty, was featured by Caroline Dorman in her book "The Natives."

Collecting seed from this tree is a slow, tedious job because the long trunk is free of branches for 40 feet or more. But careful climbing with long ladders gives me an annual yield of about 50,000 seeds. I sell these; one of my best customers is Richards Nursery, Forest Hill, Louisiana, where liners are grown. Because this tree is not well known, young trees often sell slowly. But lovers of Magnolia should know that seed and seedlings are now available after a lapse of almost 15 years — which was the last time commercial seed was offered.



Magnolia × *Proctoriana*
Barnes Arboretum, Merion, Pa.
Photo: Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.

Notes on Magnolia Virginiana

KATHRYN LEIVE
Secaucus, New Jersey

IT IS THE END OF SEPTEMBER and the last of the cones of fruit from the Magnolias have fallen.

My parent tree of Sweet Bay (*Magnolia virginiana*) is about fifty years old and was brought over from Carlstadt, Bergen County, N. J., forty years ago.

The berries are a bright red, oval, flat and cling in a grape cluster on the central spike. The seed pod usually falls intact, but the separate seeds sometimes scatter with the impact and wind. The leaves are bright green, oblong, overlap and are alternate on the stem.

I compete with the squirrels in gathering the seed, since they enjoy the fruit for food.

The seeds gathered in pods or separated are planted in a prepared part of the garden that is naturally moist. Magnolias need wet feet. The drought, the past three years, has cut down the underground water supply. That is why the large trees have roots so deep in the ground.

The ground in Secaucus proper is heavy with clay, so I use peat moss to make it porous, and after seeding cover with fallen oak leaves. Green manure or other organic material worked into the soil will help improve the clay condition.

The tree remains bare through April, and May finds the first sign of spring in the limbs, the wood is soft, light and spongy.

In June the tree flowers and the plant is at its best. The flowers have 3 sepals, 6 to 12 petals, many stamens and a "cone" with many pistils. The short pointed petals are a creamy white.

Standing under the tree, after a light rain, one is impressed by the aromatic perfume and the exotic air gives thoughts of a cathedral.

The little seedlings that come up the next June must be handled with care, since they are waxy and brittle. The first year of growth needs careful watching in January, after freezing December, there is a warm week in January that the temperature hits 70°. This opens the frozen ground and the small white roots appear in the open ground. The first frost thereafter finds the exposed seedling and destroys it, if it has not been gently pressed down while the ground is open. Covering of moss, dirt and leaves will protect until spring, then removed and the young tree is on its own. It sinks the roots more firmly each year, seeking water.

It takes eight years for the first blossom to appear but the reward each June pays untold pleasure. Every young garden should have at least one tree. Cross polinization is not necessary.

SPECIMEN MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA, height from 8 to 25 feet, can be selected from 3000 trees at Magnolia Forest. The 10 acre nursery is located on the banks of the Pearl River, near Pearl River, La. Our mailing address is MAGNOLIA FOREST, P. O. Box 4153, New Orleans, La. 70117. Proprietor Frank P. Fischer can be reached in New Orleans, phone is 861-1414.

Two Rare American Magnolias

ROBERT L. EGOLF, M.D.

University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida

WHEN I FIRST BECAME INTERESTED in Magnolias several years ago my initial project was to grow all of our native North American species. *M. grandiflora* and *M. virginiana* are indigenous to this area of Florida near Tampa Bay and were not difficult to obtain. *M. acuminata* is kept occasionally by our local nurserymen and was easily located. *M. cordata*, *M. tripetala*, *M. macrophylla*, and *M. Fraseri* were somewhat more difficult to find, but eventually these plants were located in various nurseries and added to the collection. After a period of fruitless search a single nursery was located offering *M. Ashei*, but only as grafted plants. *M. pyramidata* could not at that time be found in the nursery trade, nor is it available now so far as I know. It became evident that *M. pyramidata* would have to be collected wild, not an altogether easy job with an uncommon tree.

M. pyramidata has never been common in cultivation. Although introduced to England and Europe at an early date, recent authors have expressed doubt that it still exists there. A specimen apparently grew in the gardens of the Trianon in France where it was seen in 1887 by George Nicholson, the author of the Illustrated Dictionary of Gardening. *M. pyramidata* was first described by William Bartram in his Travels, published in 1791, but, due to a considerable lack of clarity in his account, the author citation is often given to Frederick Pursh, who described the tree again in 1814, twenty-three years after Bartram. *M. pyramidata* is closely related to *M. Fraseri* which it replaces in the forests of the southern coastal plain. Although less spectacular than the precocious flowering Asiatic species, there is no reason why *M. pyramidata* should not be grown as an attractive small ornamental specimen.

In 1963, while I was visiting Callaway Gardens at Pine Mountain, Georgia, Mr. Fred Galle, horticulturist in charge of the gardens and a person well known to gardeners, mentioned that he had seen *M. pyramidata* growing in Torreya State Park in Florida on the banks of the Apalachicola River. Since this park was near my route home, it was decided to spend part of a day there to see if trees could be located. Torreya State Park is in Liberty County, about sixty miles west of Tallahassee in the north-west panhandle of Florida, and is relatively isolated and unspoiled. The park was established to protect one of the rare stands of *Torreya taxifolia*, the stinking cedar, and is covered by a deciduous hardwood forest on the bluffs and ravines east of the Apalachicola River. In addition to the Torreya and the Magnolias about to be mentioned, at least one other rare indigen, *Taxus floridana*, the Florida yew, is found in the park.

Within an hour of arriving at the park, I was delighted to find one specimen of *M. pyramidata* of sufficient maturity to bear seed, as well as several smaller saplings. This

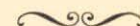
large tree, situated near the crest of a blux among *M. grandiflora*, *Ilex opaca*, and other hardwoods, was 30 to 40 ft. tall and about 10 in. in diameter near the base. A careful hunt revealed no fruiting cones on the tree nor on the ground nearby although *M. grandiflora* was opening its cones (late September). By happy chance I found a perfect tiny seedling of *M. pyramidata* and this was tenderly dug and replanted in a container. (Please note that it is properly illegal to dig living plants in our state parks and forests, but I had received special permission previously to collect on state lands). Although transplanting forest seedlings is often disappointing, this plant has thrived and increased its size several fold since being collected.

As a bonus for the visit, *M. Ashei* was found in relative abundance in the park, scattered irregularly along the slopes of ravines, but nowhere where the ground had a tendency to be wet or swampy. The trees grow as part of the underwood in company with *Ostrya virginiana*, *Halesia tetraptera*, *Aesculus Pavia*, *Taxus floridana*, and *Torreya taxifolia*. None of the specimens seen exceeded 20 ft. in height and usually had crooked, leaning trunks 2 to 5 in. in diameter, occasionally divided near the base, and very sparingly branched. None of these trees was bearing fruit at the time.

M. Ashei was not distinguished from *M. macrophylla* until 1926 and this has created some confusion as to the natural ranges of the two species. In older collections *M. Ashei* may be identified as *M. macrophylla*, extending the range of the latter unduly. Kurz and Godfrey (1962) are of the opinion that *M. macrophylla* does not occur in Florida. The two are certainly closely related, the degree of relatedness, whether of varietal or specific rank, being still an open question. In his original description Weatherby stated that *M. macrophylla* was found in drier situations than *M. Ashei*, which was more often found growing near the banks of streams. This is not the case with the *M. Ashei* growing in Torreya State Park; in this station, at least, the trees do not like wet feet.

I was unable to obtain seed of either Magnolia on this first trip and accordingly planned a return visit earlier in the year in 1964. In late July, 1964, *M. Ashei* and *M. pyramidata* were both found in fruit in the park, *M. Ashei* with the cones mature but not yet open, *M. pyramidata* with less mature rose-pink cones. Although the cones of *M. pyramidata* were obviously not ripe, several were collected in hope of finding a few seeds mature enough to germinate. The cones of *M. Ashei* collected were not of the very narrow cylindrical form usually described, but were long-ovoid and considerably smaller than the cones of *M. macrophylla* with fewer carpels. An additional number of seedlings of *M. pyramidata* were seen on this trip, often growing in small groups and in moister ground than that favored by *M. Ashei*. It is noteworthy that no seedlings of *M. Ashei* could be found, although a search was made.

Seed of both species collected on this trip subsequently germinated and will, hopefully, provide flowering specimens in the future when sufficiently grown.





Magnolia Kobus
Morris Arboretum

Photo: Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.

Aids to Culture of Tender Asiatic Magnolias

JAMES GOSSLER
Springfield, Oregon

FREQUENTLY IT HAS BEEN SAID that the Pacific Northwest is an ideal location for growing Magnolias and particularly the Asiatics. But whether we modern day plant collectors wish to admit it or not, we have a tendency to attempt to cultivate species of Magnolias which are tender to extremes of cold. Fortunately for us who live in the mild climate of Puget Sound southwards through Western Washington and south through Oregon's Willamette Valley, we may safely without protection, enjoy the majesties of such lovely Magnolias as the complete *Soulangiana* group, *denudata*, *Dawsoniana*, all the *Buergeria* group, all the *Oyama* except *globosa* and \times *Watsonii*.

As with many other plant enthusiasts we like to flirt with extremes of cold by attempting to grow such exotics as *Magnolia Sargentiana robusta*, *M. Campbellii*, *M. \times Veitchii*, *M. globosa*, *M. Sprengeri* 'Diva' and *M. mollicomata*. Although our temperature range seldom drops below 10°, we have rarely experienced 0° readings. Needless to say, much care must be taken to successfully grow the more tender species. On the more fortunate side of our weather is a heavy rainfall and moderate climate which makes most Magnolias thrive.

We find the most successful precaution against winds and killing frost in cultivation of the *Yulania* group is to place our specimen plants in the shelter of our native evergreens. Successful trees of *M. Campbellii* which have flourished and bloomed successfully have been protected in such a fashion. But when the evergreens are not growing at the site, we are employing a modification of the screen technique. We construct a wind screen or barrier fence usually of grapestake on the windward side of the Magnolias. The screen is quite tall and built in two sections at a wide angle to the Magnolias. We plant a thick hedge of evergreen trees behind the barrier so that, as the Magnolia grows, the evergreens will contribute to its pro-

tection. We prefer 6' saplings of cedar, either western red, incense or Port Orford, which are readily available. G. H. Johnstone, in "ASIATIC MAGNOLIAS IN CULTIVATION," p. 48, suggests *Pinus radiata* and *Quercus Ilex* as protective trees.

Not only does the screen device aid the tender tree but aesthetically it is a handsome backdrop for the magnificent Magnolia blossoms. In extremely cold weather, further aid may be gained from installation of the conventional portable orchard heater between the Magnolia and the protective screen. These inexpensive heaters are available at orchard supply stores, burn fuel oil and are designed for warming citrus groves, pear orchards, etc.

We seem to be able to grow *M. \times Veitchii* with little frost damage and annual terminal growth of 42" is not uncommon. To protect against shake from early fall winds which come before defoliation, we provide a concrete anchor and guy cable secured to the tree with a section of heavy belting. After defoliation the guy cable may be detached until the next fall season. If some training or "righting" of the tree is desired, the anchor may have a turnbuckle installed so tension may be applied to correct any lean incurred by uneven growth.



New Members

THE SOCIETY IS HAPPY TO WELCOME the following new members who have been enrolled since April, 1966:

Bowman, Abbot Marion, St. Leo Abbey, St. Leo, Florida.
Dodd, Col. W. K., 931 Marina Ave., Palo Alto, California.
Durfee, Mr. Arthur, 14511 Leslie, Oak Park, Michigan 48237.

Durio, Mr. Kenneth G., Jr., Louisiana Nursery Co., Rt. 1, Box 43, Opelousa, Louisiana 70570.

Farmingdale Ag. & Tech. Inst., Farmingdale, N. Y.

Forster, Dr. Donald E., 11340 S.W. Breyman Ave., Portland, Oregon.

Goldsmith Civic Garden Center, 750 Cherry Road, Memphis, Tennessee.

Holmes, Mr. Harlan F., P. O. Box 28677, Raleigh, Tennessee.

Horden, Mr. Edward, 4558 Brookmoor Drive, Mobile, Alabama 36618.

Kennedy, Mr. Thomas L., 65' Alberta Street, Ferndale, Michigan.

Mann, Mr. William F., 4607 Hendover Blvd., Alexandria, Louisiana.

Sarot, Dr. Irving A., 107 East 85th Street, New York, N. Y. 10028.

Schenk, Mr. Joseph J., 2380 Ebenezer Road, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Slingerland, Mr. J. H., P. O. Box 528, Wheaton, Illinois.
Wicher, Miss Marie, Wicher Road, St. Leo, Florida.

N.B.—An effort has been made to forward copies of the first three issues of the NEWSLETTER to all members. If you failed to receive yours, please notify Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr., Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia 18, Pennsylvania.



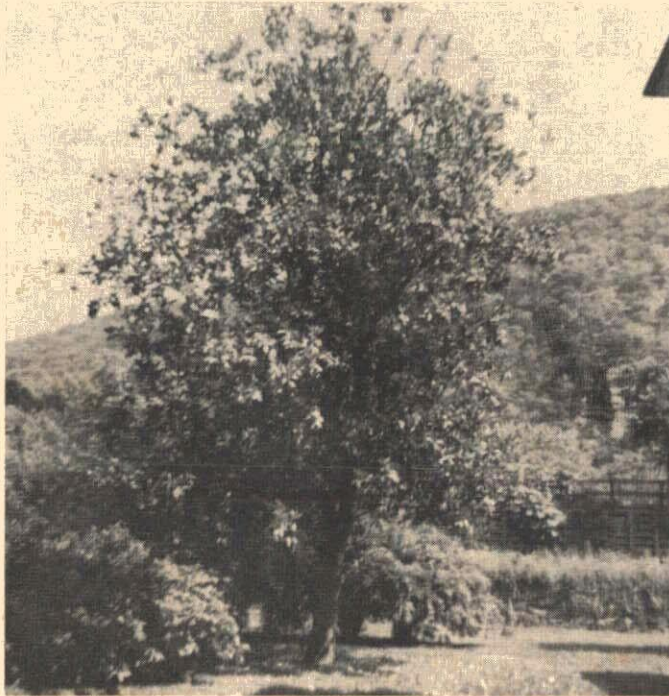
Harpers Ferry Magnolia

by

ALBERT M. SNYDERMAN

RECENTLY I HAD THE PLEASURE of visiting Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, the partially restored site of John Brown's famous raid. It is not surprising that he should have chosen this town to attack, as it was a bustling federal arsenal which, if taken, would provide arms for his planned slave rebellion. However, I was more than surprised when right in the yard of a most lovely old home stood a venerable specimen of *Magnolia grandiflora*.

Although this tree appears, from all indications, to be rather old it is only about twenty feet tall due to the rigors of the local climate. Frankly speaking, there was quite a bit of winter burn on old leaves, dead wood, and indications that it had been cut back by its former owners or the park service, probably due to winterkill. However, despite these scars the Magnolia is attractive and shapely. (See figure).



Magnolia grandiflora
At Harpers Ferry, W. Va.
Photo: Dorothy Snyderman

Why is this town in the traditionally southern state of West Virginia so unlikely a spot for *Magnolia grandiflora*? First of all, it lies in the hilly mountains which make up the Appalachian chain and, besides this, is located in a terrible frost pocket, being at the base of a high embankment. The area is subjected to frequent flooding with waters sometimes high enough to almost cover the tree. Lastly, lying in the far northeast corner of the state, Harpers Ferry is far from the ameliorating influence of the Chesapeake Bay. Despite its relatively small stature, this Magnolia stands as a tribute to the ruggedness of the species, and as a cautious invitation for more northern growers to cultivate the magnificent native tree.

Questions and Answers

- Q. I live in an urban area, and can find no beetles of the *Nitidulidae* in unopened buds on my *Magnolia virginiana* tree, yet it matures many seeds each August and September. What pollinates it?
- A. Probably bees. On a clear afternoon in June, J. C. McDaniel of the University of Illinois has seen honeybees and other members of the Hymenoptera visiting newly opened and older flowers of this species cultivated in Champaign and Urbana, Illinois (in a standard metropolitan area). Pollen was available to bees in flowers opening for their second time. In strictly fresh flowers, just opened that day for the first time, he was able to demonstrate stigma receptivity by artificial cross-pollination with *M. grandiflora* pollen, and the subsequently harvested seeds later germinated to produce numerous hybrid seedlings more nearly resembling the pollen parent. He also saw bees frequently enter and leave freshly opened flowers, in many of which their pollen-dusted bodies could have conveyed pollen to receptive stigmatic surfaces.

In response to a query as to how Magnolias should be fertilized in our Southeastern States, Mr. Tom Dodd, Sr., of Tom Dodd Nurseries, Semmes, Alabama, replies as follows:

We fertilize Magnolias (all species) with a balanced mixture and as regularly as most other ornamentals. In the field and in containers we use 8-8-8 and cotton seed meal (mixed 1 to 1) in April, June, August and October. Occasionally we add Dolomitic Lime.

Corrections

Farris, Mrs. Victor D., 1852 Ferry Road N.W., Salem, Oregon.

Godard, Mrs. Harold, R.F.D. 1, Raleigh, Illinois.

THE SOUTH'S MOST SELECTIVE GROUP OF MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA. Only ten varieties. Holmes exclusive "Scion-Sired" prolific quick blooming stock, from living wood of parent stock proven over dozens of years. Flower sizes from 6 to 13 inches. In cans or root-pruned, wire-balled specimens. Also "Mon Cherie" selected seedling, all spectacular. Write for list, special quotations. HOLMES NURSERIES, P. O. Box 17157, Tampa, Fla. 33612. Phone 813-935-3127.

NEW MAGNOLIA STELLATA 'ROYAL STAR'

A much improved star. Proven bud and plant hardy to 35 below. Profuse bloomer, large, pure white and fragrant. Strong, compact growth.

	1-3*	4 up*
3" Pot, 25 per carton	\$43.75	\$40.00
4½" Pot, 12 per carton	36.00	30.00
Gallon, 10 per crate	50.00	45.00

*Wholesale prices on these and larger B&B will be quoted to the trade upon request.

JOHN VERMEULEN & SON, INC.
BOX 267MC NESHANIC STATION, N. J. 08853