

2017 MAGNOLIA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION



Our 2017 Annual Meeting offers a unique opportunity to experience the rich culture of growing magnolias in Sweden. As this means latitudes between Greenland and Siberia, you will not see subtropical species, but you will find...

Cool magnolias for cool climates!

We will have eleven days to explore the three regions in Sweden most renowned for cultivating our favorite tree. Those areas form a triangle, from our southernmost destination in Malmo toward the northeast to Uppsala, then southwest to Gothenburg. Since we will cover about 1,350 kilometers (900 miles), we will travel one side of the triangle by air and the other two sides by train. Each of the three locations is an experience in itself. From our home base in Malmo we will visit many places, including the “Magnolia Forest” at the Swedish Agricultural University and the very special private garden in Bjuv owned by Magnus Carlstrom which was begun by Karl E. Flinck in the early 1950s. Here you will see the most mature magnolia specimens to be found in any of the Nordic countries. When we get to Uppsala, there will be an entire day devoted to Carl Linnaeus and his students. Linnaeus’ influence is evident in three of the gardens we will tour that day, and we will even have lunch in the Baroque Garden’s 200-year-old Orangery. Our third destination, the Gothenburg Botanical Garden, is considered to be one of the leading gardens in all of northern Europe.

Although we will cover a large geographic area, it is only a small sampling of the magnolia enthusiasts’ endeavors in these northern climes. To enable you to learn firsthand about growing magnolias in Scandinavia without traveling to too many locations, magnoliaphiles will come to us to describe their growing conditions, gardens and magnolias. In our many garden tours and presentations, you may be pleasantly surprised by the diversity and hardiness of magnolias that will be introduced to you.

Knowing that time and budget may not allow everyone to participate in the full Annual Meeting, it has been structured so that you may select those portions of the itinerary that best suit you. You may choose from only the Malmo segment or only the Uppsala portion up to the entire three-city tour, with many options in-between. This may be your best chance to immerse yourself in the cultural heritage and horticulture of Sweden. We hope that you join us!

MALMO ITINERARY (MAY 4 – 8, 2017)

TRAVEL TO MALMO

Participants arriving by airplane should book flights into Copenhagen Airport in Denmark (CPH). From there, you can catch a fast train into Malmo. (For more information, please see the FAQs sheet.) We will be staying at the [Comfort Hotel Malmo](#), which is only 128 paces from the Malmo Central Station. For participants arriving by car, Comfort Hotel Malmo provides parking behind the hotel.

MALMO DAILY ITINERARY

Thursday, May 4

Registration begins at noon in the Comfort Hotel Malmo, Carlsgatan 10C, 211 20 Malmo, Sweden. Dinner is on your own.

Our meeting officially begins at 8pm on Thursday. We will gather in a room at the Comfort Hotel Malmo, where Lennarth Jonsson will give us an introduction to the itinerary planned for the next three days. After that, we will have the opportunity to freely mingle with other participants. It will be a chance to meet new colleagues and renew former acquaintances before launching into our exciting program.

Friday, May 5

In the morning, we will board a coach to travel to the [Swedish Agricultural University \(SLU\)](#) at Alnarp. Our lecture series will begin when we arrive. Our first speaker will be Erland Ejder, whose presentation is titled: “We seek them here, we seek them there, we seek them everywhere: Some thoughts about hunting for hardy magnolias”. Erland will be followed by Kenneth Lorentzon discussing: “Magnolias grown in southern Sweden”. Erland and Kenneth will then be joined by Magnus Carlstrom. Together, the three gentlemen will present: “A brief introduction to ‘The Magnolia Forest’”.

After lunch, we will tour plantings in [Alnarp Park](#). Our primary focus will be on the “Magnolia Forest”, a special area that has been devoted specifically to test magnolias in a southern Scandinavian climate. Although young, it already contains about 1,000 magnolias and the number is expected to rise towards 1,500. (For more information, see the Magnolia Journal Issue No. 96). After dinner in the canteen at SLU, Alnarp, we will return by coach to the Comfort Hotel Malmo for our evening lectures. First on the program will be Marten Gustafsson: “Magnolias in my garden as well as others in the Gothenburg area”. His presentation will be followed by Osmo Jussila: “Magnolias grown in Finland”.



*Magnus Carlstrom in "Magnolia Forest".
Photo: Erland Edjer*

Saturday, May 6

Our lecture series will continue after breakfast at the hotel. Todd West will start us off with: "Breeding, Selection and Evaluation for Cold Climate Conditions". Next, Bjarne Dinesen will describe: "A garden in Funen, Denmark". Following lunch at the hotel, we will depart for a very special private garden in Bjuv. This garden was begun by Karl E. Flinck, who started planting magnolias at this site in 1952. (See Magnolia Journal Issue No. 98.) Magnus Carlstrom, the present owner, is applying his own vision to enhance further development. Magnus has graciously offered to open this garden to the Magnolia Society International for the first time. This magnificent magnolia collection is likely to be the peak of mature magnolias that you will find in the Nordic countries!

After our exhilarating garden tour, we will return to the Comfort Hotel for dinner and our evening lectures. Jonas Grund will discuss: "Growing magnolias on the shore of Lake Vanern". That will be followed by a PowerPoint prepared by Anders Blomquist about magnolias grown in Karlstad and other sites in Varmland. Lennarth Jonsson will make the presentation for Anders.



Magnus Carlstrom's garden in Bjuv. Clockwise from top left are Magnolia sinostellata (seedling), M. sprengeri 'Burncoose' and M. s. 'Diva' in front of the house, M. sprengeri in bud and, last, fully opened.

Photo: Magnus Carlstrom.

Sunday, May 7

Our final morning lectures will be held after breakfast at the hotel. Henrik Sjoman will discuss: "Magnolias as a street tree and some information on magnolias in the Botanic Garden in Gothenburg". That will be followed by Hans-Erik Philip on the topic: "'Svelte Brunettes' and 'Buxom Nordic Blonds' in Scandinavia. And other hardy Magnolias".

After lunch at the hotel, we will travel north of Helsingborg to the park of [Sofiero Castle](#), formerly one of the Swedish royal family's country mansions. From the patio of the castle there is a breath-taking vista of the rhododendron collection and the Oresund Strait, the body of water which forms the Danish-Swedish border. Sofiero is a place where you will be immersed in the beauty of a garden.

When we have finished our excursions for the day, we will return to the Comfort Hotel for dinner and our final speeches in Malmo. Around 7pm, we will have a PowerPoint presentation which was compiled by Tommy Ahnby and will be delivered by Lennarth Jonsson. The subject will be magnolias grown in Bohuslan and south-east Norway. The final speaker in Malmo will be Lennarth Jonsson with his own presentation titled "Some magnolias grown at Frandatorp, Karlskrona".

Monday, May 8

On Monday morning, you will check out of the Comfort Hotel Malmo. If you are ending your program participation, you need to make your own travel arrangements back to CPH. If you are continuing to Uppsala, please see "TRAVEL TO UPPSALA" in the UPPSALA ITINERARY section below.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors meeting will begin at approximately 11am on May 8 in the orangery of Lennart Soederberg's garden. Directors who attended the Malmo portion of the meeting will have morning flights booked for them to Stockholm Arlanda Airport. A coach will take them to Lennart's garden, which is located halfway between the Stockholm Arlanda airport and Uppsala. Directors who will be joining us for the Uppsala portion of the meeting should fly directly into Stockholm Arlanda Airport, ARN. Information will be emailed to them about how to travel to the Board Meeting.

Lunch will be provided during the meeting. Around 3:30, a coach will take the Directors to the Best Western Hotel Svava in Uppsala, where there will be time to check in before the Annual General Meeting begins at 5pm.

UPPSALA ITINERARY (MAY 8 – 12, 2017)

TRAVEL TO UPPSALA

If you are continuing from Malmo to Uppsala, a coach will take you from the Comfort Hotel Malmo to Malmo Airport (MMX). A flight will be booked for you to Stockholm Arlanda Airport (ARN), and a coach will take you to the [Best Western Hotel Svava](#) in Uppsala. Lunch will be on your own, before or after you check in to the hotel.

Participants joining us in Uppsala and arriving by airplane should book flights into Stockholm Arlanda Airport, ARN. From there, you can rent a car or take a bus or train to the Best Western Hotel Svava in Uppsala. Parking is available for a nominal fee for those traveling by car.

UPPSALA DAILY ITINERARY

Monday, May 8

Registration for participants who are joining us for the first time in Uppsala will be begin at noon on May 8 in the Best Western Hotel Svava, Bangardsgatan 24, 753 20 Uppsala.

Participants who attend the Malmo portion of the meeting are already registered for Uppsala.

MSI Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will convene a short walk from the Best Western Hotel Svava at 5pm on Monday. It will be held in the Linnearium in the [Linnaeus Botanical Garden](#), Svartbacksgatan 27, SE-755 98 Uppsala, Sweden. The Annual General Meeting will be followed by an introduction to the area by Lennart Soederberg and a lecture by Stefan Mattson. Lennart and Stefan are both long-term MSI members. Lennart developed the itinerary for the Uppsala portion of our meeting and Stefan is the former head gardener of Enkoping, which we will tour the following day.



Stefan Mattson with Magnolia 'Brozzoni'. Photo: Dan Rosenholm

Dinner on May 8 will be at the [Restaurant Lingon](#), which is just across the street from the Linnearium. After dinner, we will stroll back to the Linnearium to hear civil engineer Ludvig Johansson discuss: “What exotic looking plants can you grow in a cold climate with bad summers and worse winters?”

Tuesday May 9

Following breakfast at the hotel, we will board a coach and travel to Enköping, a city of approximately 21,000 residents which dates back to 1250. Here you can easily walk around in more than twenty centrally located parks. Several hundred varieties of perennials, bulbs and ornamental grasses are generously used over large areas. Together with interesting trees and shrubs, they make a fantastic display of colors, shapes and volumes.

The former city head gardener for Enköping, Stefan Mattson, is passionate about magnolias. For this reason, Enköping’s parks can boast more magnolias than most other public parks in Sweden. In the morning, we will be given guided tours by Stefan. After lunch we will visit the awarded garden of Torsten Walderoe in Kungsängen. We will return by coach to the Best Western Hotel Svava, walk to dinner at the Restaurant Lingon, then walk to the Linnearium for a presentation by Associate Professor Claes Andreasson: “The molecules behind stress tolerance in plants”.

Wednesday, May 10

After breakfast at the hotel, we will walk to the [Linnaeus Garden](#). This was the first botanical garden in Sweden. Founded in 1655, it is laid out in the French Style and was restored following Linnaeus' and Carl Harleman's design from 1745. Today approximately 1,300 species are grown here. All are known to have been cultivated by Linnaeus and arranged according to his own system. This botanical garden contains the former home of Carl Linnaeus. In the orangery of the Linnaeus Garden, its Curator, Jesper Karehed, will tell us about Linnaeus and one of his most important apostles, Pehr Kalm. We will then board a coach to travel to the Uppsala University’s [Museum of Evolution](#). This unique natural history collection contains over 5 million specimens of fossils, minerals, animals and plants that have been accumulated since the 17th century. We will be welcomed by Mats Hjertson, Curator of the Museum of Evolution Botany, then divided into groups to see a historical gem: the Herbarium of Thunberg. We will learn more about Carl Peter Thunberg, a Swedish naturalist and pupil of Linnaeus, during lunch.

From the museum we will walk a short distance to the [Baroque Garden](#) of Uppsala University. This garden was initiated by King Adolf Frederick circa 1750 when he commissioned the architect Carl Harleman to draw a new plan for the gardens of Uppsala Castle.

Harleman's design was in the elegant, strict Baroque style that remains today. Lunch will be served in the Baroque Garden's 200-year-old Orangery, Linneanum, where Garden Director Mats Block will enlighten us with a presentation about Carl Peter Thunberg and the orangery plants. Carl Peter Thunberg, Linnaeus’ youngest student, was one of very few western people allowed to visit the Japanese mainland. He was even invited into the Japanese court. Thunberg was the first to give a name to *Magnolia stellata*, which he called *M. tomentosa* (the name was changed later), and he also noted *Magnolia obovata*.



Baroque Garden of Uppsala University

After lunch, we will travel by coach to Linnaeus' [Hammarby](#). Linnaeus purchased this country estate in 1758 so that he and his family could spend the summers together away from the unhealthy quarters of Uppsala. Today, few Swedish manor houses preserve such an authentic setting. It reflects the private life of Linnaeus as well as his scientific work. While at Hammarby, we will savor coffee in the apple orchard and be given tours of the main building and park. We will then reboard the coach to visit the garden of Anna Lundborg, a private garden with challenging growing conditions. From there we will return by coach to the hotel, then walk to dinner at the Restaurant Lingon.

After dinner, we will walk to the Linnearium to hear two presentations. Associate Professor Tom Ericsson will talk about: "Mineral nutrition and frost tolerance of plants" and Lennart Soederberg will make a presentation: "Magnolias on the rocks. Experiences from growing magnolias under tough conditions".

Thursday, May 11

Following breakfast at the hotel, we will board coaches to take us to several private gardens. We will first travel to the city of Vasteras to visit the garden of Sven-Olov Andersson. Sven began planting magnolias around 1975 and he currently has 60 magnolias (50 different). Sven is so enthusiastic about his propagation, he is now planting magnolias in his neighbors' gardens! We will have lunch in Vasteras, then travel to Tido-Lindo on Lake Malaren. Here we will tour two gardens that are within walking distance of each other, those of Stefan Mattson and of the late Tore Widenfalk. Tore was one of the magnolia pioneers in the region, and we will be able to see many old, large trees in this garden. Stefan Mattson will guide us on tours of both gardens, and we will then return to the hotel and have a little time to freshen up before the finale of our stay in Uppsala.



'Charming Lady' x 'Rose Marie'. Photo by Lennart Soderberg

In the late afternoon, we will travel by coach to attend a reception that Lennart Soederberg will host in his garden. We will be given guided tours of this private test garden where Lennart is evaluating magnolias suitable for cold climate zones in Sweden. After sipping wine surrounded by magnolias, we will stroll to the [Krusenberg Herrgard](#). Set on the shores of Lake Malaren, this manor house has parts dating from the 1600s. It is in this genteel setting where we will enjoy a sumptuous banquet and say goodbye to those who will be leaving after the Uppsala portion of the meeting. Then it's back aboard the coach for our return to the hotel.

Friday, May 12

All attendees will check out of the Best Western Hotel Svava. If you are ending your program participation and you joined us in Uppsala, you need to make your own arrangements to return to the Stockholm Arlanda Airport (ARN). If you are ending your program participation, joined us in Malmo and traveled to Stockholm by air, the travel agent will arrange your travel to Stockholm Arlanda Airport (ARN) and book your flights back to Copenhagen Airport (CPH). If you are participating in a May 12 option, please see "TRAVEL TO STOCKHOLM" in the MAY 12 ITINERARY section below.

MAY 12 ITINERARY

TRAVEL TO STOCKHOLM

If your transportation is being arranged by the travel agency, you will travel by coach. Those touring Arboretum Lassas Hagar will board a coach with your luggage. The luggage will remain secure on the coach until you return from the arboretum. You will then be taken to check in to the [Scandic Continental Hotel](#) in Stockholm. Those touring Stockholm will travel by coach directly to the Scandic Continental Hotel in Stockholm. If you are driving, the hotel offers parking in its garage for an additional cost.

MAY 12 ITINERARY CHOICES: These are only available to those who attended the Uppsala portion of the meeting. If you attended the meeting on May 8 - 11, here are your options for May 12:

1) Tour Arboretum Lassas Hagar. This tour is limited to 24 people. First priority will go to those who register for the full three-city tour. Acceptance will be in the order in which the registrations are received. A day tour in Stockholm will be offered to those who will not be able to visit Arboretum Lassas Hagar.

[Arboretum Lassas Hagar](#) is on the remote island of Svartloga in the Stockholm Archipelago. This five hectare (12 acre) arboretum was founded by Sten Ridderlof in 1980. Sten has made 15 plant hunting expeditions around the world, focusing on locations with climates similar to that of the arboretum. He has found the best results in adaptation in trees that he collected in NE Asia, mostly the Russian Far East, North and South Korea. Magnolias, oaks, maples and rhododendron have long been Sten's favorites but there are many others in his collection of approximately 2,500 specimens. Sten will show us the plants, talk about how they were collected, and tell us stories about the old fishermen's island where the arboretum is located. For more information, please visit www.lassashagar.se or read the article titled "20 YEARS OF PLANT INTRODUCTIONS (1997-2016)" at <http://www.lassashagar.se/vaxtforteckning/20-years-of-plant-introductions-1997-2016/>

This will be a full-day excursion far out in the Swedish archipelago, a perfect end to the portion of our meeting in the "Northern Frontier". We will travel by sea taxi. The number of participants is limited to 24 due to our mode of transportation and the group size that can comfortably tour the arboretum. When the capacity of 24 is reached, participants will be assigned to the Stockholm tour. Lunch will be served while we are on the island of Svartloga.

2) Tour Stockholm. This will be a one-day tour arranged by the travel agent. An exact schedule cannot be finalized until we know how many people will participate. However, activities under consideration include a guided tour in the Old Town, a ferry ride to the island of Djurgarden and a visit to the Vasa Museum. Lunch will be included.

Saturday, May 13

Participants continuing to Gothenburg will check out of the Scandic Continental Hotel in Stockholm. Please see the TRAVEL TO GOTHENBURG section below. If you are participating in the optional May 13 – 15 Stockholm tour, you will remain in the Scandic Continental Hotel.

TRAVEL TO GOTHENBURG

Those with cars will determine their own schedules. Those who traveled to Uppsala by air and coach will travel by train to Gothenburg. The train trip takes about three hours. The travel agent will arrange transportation to the Stockholm train station and provide your tickets to Gothenburg. The Gothenburg train station is across the street from our hotel.

We will be staying at the [Scandic Crown Hotel](#) in Gothenburg. If you are driving, the hotel offers parking in its garage for an additional charge. There is a map that includes the hotel and train station at the above website.

GOTHENBURG ITINERARY

Saturday, May 13

You will check into the [Scandic Crown Hotel in Gothenburg](#) and you will have time to explore the city at your leisure. Lunch and dinner will be on your own. In the afternoon, we will have a meeting in the hotel where Sten Beckman will describe the many attractions available in Gothenburg.

Sunday, May 14

After breakfast at the hotel, we will take a tram to the [Gothenburg Botanical Garden](#). Called 'Botan' by keen gardeners in Sweden, this is considered to be one of the leading gardens in Northern Europe. Its 175 hectares (430 acres) include an extended collection of wild collects. Work on the Botanical Garden was begun a century ago, and the park was opened to the public in 1919 (the Woodlands) and in 1923 (the cultivated areas). One of the prominent botanists who created the garden was Carl Skottsberg, who made several research trips around the globe to collect the rare plants of the garden.

Members of the garden staff will meet us on the morning of May 14 and give us a guided tour. Lunch will be in the garden restaurant. After that, you will have time on your own. You may choose to continue your stay in the magnificent Gothenburg Botanical Garden. The morning guided tour can only cover the highlights, so there will be much more to see. Another choice would be take the tram back to the Scandic Crown Hotel. From there, you can walk across the street to [Tradgardsforeningen](#), one of the best preserved 19th century parks in Europe. You might even wish to see a different attraction that you heard about during our meeting the prior day. Whatever you decide, be sure to return to the Scandic Crown Hotel in time to enjoy our farewell dinner together!

Monday, May 15

After breakfast, you will check out of the Scandic Crown Hotel. Those with cars will determine their own schedules. Those who traveled to Gothenburg by train will also travel to Copenhagen Airport (CPH) by train. This train trip takes about three hours. The travel agent will provide your train tickets to Copenhagen Airport.



Gothenburg Garden in Spring. Photos: Henrik Sjoman

STOCKHOLM OPTIONAL TOUR, MAY 13 - 15

Those who prefer not to travel to Gothenburg may be interested in staying awhile in Stockholm. The capital of Sweden, Stockholm is a city built on islands. It is sometimes called the Venice of the North. There are numerous tourist attractions. If there are enough participants interested in this option, the travel agency will arrange a tour. There is a place on the registration form to indicate that you want to take this May 13 – 15 tour. Destination choices and prices will be provided after it has been determined that this tour is viable. Possible destinations might include:

- A tour by boat through the Stockholm archipelago, which has about 100,000 islands.
- The Warship Vasa, which is the main attraction for most international visitors.
- The Bergius Botanic Garden, where there is a computer-controlled conservatory that simulates the Mediterranean climate's seasonal changes and its daily cycles.

Links:

<http://www.visitstockholm.com/en/Good-to-know/the-stockholm-guide/>

<http://www.visitstockholm.com/en/Stockholmcard/>

<http://www.bergianska.se/english/the-garden-and-greenhouses/edvard-anderson-conservatory>