

# Newsletter

## of the American Magnolia Society

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## The Meeting At San Francisco

A HIMALAYAN DAYDREAM  
PHILIP J. SAVAGE, JR., Secretary-Treasurer  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

PRESIDENT JOE MCDANIEL HAS ALWAYS MAINTAINED that a horticultural meeting is a success if the audience outnumbers the speakers. On this basis the recent meeting of the Society in San Francisco on February 22 and 23 might be described as a very modest, or even a downright bashful success. By every other measurement, it was tremendous.

Plants of Himalayan origin, which grow like natives in Strybing Arboretum put on a magnificent show. Many of us had never seen *M. Campbellii* in flower before, and the rich, true pink of its upright blossoms was a sight we will long remember. The meeting date, whose target was this species in bloom, could not have been better selected, and as an added bonus there were several flowers open on three trees of another lovely Himalayan, *Michelia Doltsopa*, the species so well described in Todd Gresham's article in Vol. 3, page 5 of the NEWSLETTER. *Talauma Hodgsonii* saplings have not yet flowered at Strybing, but are doing well, and it was interesting also to see beautifully symmetrical young trees of *Manglietia insignis* unharmed by a January low of nineteen degrees and hurrying to support the opinion of Wallich, in 1824, that this was one of the world's finest flowering trees. Though not a Himalayan, *M. Sprengeri* 'Diva' had four flowers out, with dozens more to come from buds the size of hens' eggs.

A perfect background for Magnolia snapshots was provided by the clean, pure red of *Rhododendron arboreum* and its hybrids, particularly those of the grex 'Cornubia' and its outstanding local clone, 'John McLaren'. The *Camellia Williamsii* hybrids were equally spectacular.

With all this beauty in their back-yard, so to speak, it is no wonder that the staff at Strybing, and at the nearby California Academy of Sciences, are dedicated Magnoliaphiles, one and all. Arboretum Director Roy Hudson even

went so far as to advertise our meeting on television, holding a blossom of *M. Campbellii* for the color-set owners. Western hospitality is still unlimited.

After President Joe McDaniel started the meeting off with a rousing welcome, Director Roy Hudson showed beautiful color slides of the arboretum's Magnoliaceae. Roy considers *Michelia Doltsopa* the finest flowering tree introduced to California in recent years.

Mrs. Mai Arbogast, a nationally known landscape architect, formerly with the University of California, next discussed, "How to Use Magnolias in the Landscape." This very interesting talk gave the professional viewpoint on Magnolia usage. Mrs. Arbogast's delightful personality and evident love of Magnolias, plus her splendid color slides, were worth a trip to California all by themselves.

Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr., brought us up to date on, "The Naming and Registration of Magnolia Cultivars." This subject, of vital interest to Society members as well as nurserymen, outlined the only proven system by which large and increasing numbers of Magnolia cultivars can maintain their identity as they are distributed through the horticultural world. The alternative, of course, is chaos. Dr. Fogg mentioned 'Spring Snow' as an imaginative vernacular name. The names given by Todd Gresham to his cultivars are descriptive, "catchy" and easily remembered. When we consider the really huge scope of Todd's hybridizing work, the importance of this good nomenclature is evident.

While it is true that a good name can be wasted on an unworthy plant, far more often a worthwhile cultivar is lost entirely because of a poorly chosen name. I would bet that if *M. 'Verbanica'* had been named something like 'Pink Cloud' fifty years ago, it would be a lot easier to locate plants today.

At this point the sun came out, and a tour of the Arboretum was undertaken. Conducting us on this informative safari were Roy Hudson, Arthur Menzies, Dr. Elizabeth McClintock and Victor Reiter. Art Menzies is Horticulturist at Strybing, and knows its plants as a hen knows her chicks, while Victor Reiter, president of the Pacific Horticultural Foundation, is a modest expert on

local and exotic flora and a tireless plant breeder of wide and varied scope.

After lunch we thoroughly enjoyed a talk by Dr. McClintock, Curator of Botany at the California Academy of Sciences, on some unique characteristics of the Magnolias of the West Indies, with speculation on how they evolved.

Dr. Frederick C. Boutin, Botanist with the Huntington Botanical Garden at San Marino, then told of his 1968 plant collecting trip to the states of Nayarit and Jalisco in western Mexico. His eager and workmanlike approach to collecting reminded us of the great field botanists who scoured the ends of the earth for plants in the last century. Dr. Boutin also showed us slides of some of Huntington's rarities, such as *Talauma Hodgsonii*, *M. Delavayi* and others.

President Joe McDaniel provided his usual excellent slides of some very interesting *M. grandiflora* variants in the southeast, answering questions and discussing the merits of each. He then briefly reviewed the evidence for natural hybridization with other species in several *M. grandiflora* cultivars.

Mr. Victor Reiter brought us some slides of local Magnolias, including a *M. Campbellii* 'Stark's White' growing in his own yard. The tremendous substances of the tepals on this spotless white clone made everyone gasp. Just as a "party favor," Victor gave everyone a *M. Campbellii* F-2 hybrid seedling to commemorate the meeting. He also joined the Society, to everyone's pleasure.

Dr. Frank Galyon next showed us some interesting slides taken on his many Magnolia "field trips," with a discussion during and following the slides.

Mr. James Gossler, nurseryman of Springfield, Oregon, made our mouths water with pictures taken in his nursery and the vicinity. Jim has fine dark pink forms of both *M. Campbellii* and *M. Dawsoniana*, the latter showing much greater substance to the tepals than usually seen. He appears to have found the lost pure white form of *M. 'Lennei'* and is propagating it as fast as he can.

Mr. Gerd K. Schneider, our good friend from Aptos, California, has wide experience with so-called "dwarfing" understocks in fruit trees and ornamentals. Gerd cited the need for a series of such understock clones for Magnolias. A dense and shapely *M. grandiflora* tree, mature and flowering at six to ten feet high, was judged by all to be a most desirable goal and Gerd was given every encouragement to continue his research.

The meeting then adjourned until Sunday, when it was called to order at 9:15 A.M. After the minutes of the Memphis meeting were approved, the treasurer's report was read by Phil Savage. The Society's cash balance, as of meeting date, was \$1115.11.

Moving quickly on, it was decided that nursery advertising in the NEWSLETTER would be advantageous to members seeking desirable cultivars. A motion by Dr. Frank Galyon, seconded by Dr. Elizabeth McClintock and passed, limited such advertising to plants of the Magnolia family.

All present felt the Society would benefit greatly through an increase in the number of NEWSLETTERS per year, and the number of pages per copy. It was observed that advertising not only takes space, but demands a regularity of

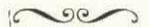
issue we have not been able to provide up to now. Mrs. J. B. Kilbride, who has considerable experience in societies of this kind, made a motion that the annual dues be increased to \$4.00, effective for the year 1970. Seconded by nurseryman Ernest Iufer, the motion was passed. An explanation to the membership will be sent with the notice of increase.

At the Memphis meeting Dr. Philip Seitner was appointed Curator of the Society's slide collection. Anyone who has seen Phil's nature photography knows how well he is qualified for this job. He showed us a sample series of slides he has worked up on *M. macrophylla*, built around a distribution map of its natural and horticultural range. This aroused everyone's enthusiasm, and Phil was urged to expand his ideas in this direction as far as possible, and promised full support.

A color slide trip through woodland gardens in England was skillfully presented by charter member and staunch supporter Mr. Ben Kilbride, of Atlanta. Caerhays, Trewithen and other Magnolia treasures were explored during their peak of bloom.

The final matter taken up was the selection of a place for next year's annual meeting. Seattle, Rochester, New Orleans and Mobile were suggested and greeted with enthusiasm, and it was finally decided that Mobile, Ala., would probably be most practical, with a tentative date in May, 1970. Secretary Savage promised better advance notice of this next meeting, and to have advance registrations made.

The meeting was then adjourned.



## The Squirrels Out-Manoeuvred

KATHRYN LEIVE  
Secaucus, New Jersey

JUST BY ACCIDENT I discovered that if you pick the green wild Magnolia cones of seed and put them on the window sill in the sun they will ripen in a day or two.

The squirrels have been feasting on the tree. Since the branches are high I couldn't reach the cones. Some green cones dropped to the ground, so I picked them up and put them on the window sill in the sun and the next day discovered to my surprise all red seeds in the cone.

The cones were planted about one inch deep and I put a wire mesh on top to keep the squirrels from feasting. In the spring, about April, a cluster of little plants appeared and I separated the waxy seedlings gently and planted them about three inches apart.

The following January when the temperature went up to 70° during one week I looked to see if the waxy roots were exposed, then pressed them gently back into the earth. The warm sun opens the ground and the first freeze catches the little plants exposed and kills them. One must be careful in handling. After the second year they are on their own and in eight years white blossoms and an exotic aroma are the rewards.



# Early Introductions Of *Magnolia Grandiflora* Into Europe

NEIL G. TRESEDER

*The Nurseries*

Truro, Cornwall, England

PROBABLY THE OLDEST SURVIVING SPECIMEN OF *Magnolia grandiflora* in Europe is in the garden of the Orto Botanico of the University of Padua in Italy. A brief account of the history of this veteran tree has been supplied to me recently by the director, Professor C. Cappelletti. It was planted in 1750 so that it is now about 220 years old. Its earliest recorded dimensions were measured in 1887 when its height was 17.1 meters and its trunk circumference at 1 meter above ground was 1.7 meters. Now, eighty years later, and after having been pruned several times, it has a height of 18 meters and a trunk circumference of 2.38 meters at 1 meter above ground.

The earliest introduction of *Magnolia grandiflora* into Europe was almost certainly the once-famous Maillardière Magnolia of Nantes. The romantic history of this tree is described at great length in the Nantes Journal of Horticultural Research of 1849. It is said to have been brought over to France as a small plant from the banks of the Mississippi by a marine officer and given to M. René Darquistade, lord of the manor of La Maillardière, who was mayor of Nantes in 1735 and again in 1740.

The date of this original introduction was thought to be 1731 but this report sets out to prove that it was, in fact, as early as 1711, the young tree having been grown for twenty years in the orangery at La Maillardière without flowering. By this time it had grown too large for the greenhouse and the gardener would have destroyed it in his master's absence had not his wife intervened and persuaded him to let her replant it near the mansion beside the dovecot, where it would be sheltered from the north winds.

Although the gardener was convinced, as most people were at that time, that plants from the New World could not succeed in the open in that climate, he reluctantly gave in to his wife's pleadings and let her replant it in the place which she had suggested. A few years later it commenced to flower and details of the beauty of its great blossoms and their delightful perfume spread far and wide so that it was visited each season by botanists and horticulturists from all over Europe. For a long time it was known as the Laurel-Tulip Tree until the genus was given the name *Magnolia* by Linnaeus.

In 1793 the fatal civil warfare of La Vendée spread fire and devastation among the chateaux on the left bank of the Loire including La Maillardière, but the tree survived in spite of being badly burned, scarred with bullets and partly covered with rubble from a collapsed wall.

After such a narrow escape from destruction the local botanists and horticulturists decided on a plan to try to propagate it by layering. So, in 1795, scaffolding was placed

around the top of the Magnolia to support three boxes of soil, into each of which four or five shoots were layered. The trunk circumference at 1 meter above ground level was then 1 meter 14 cms. The successful rooting of these layers ensured the continued existence and future distribution of *Magnolia grandiflora* 'La Maillardière' throughout France. By 1848 the tree had attained a height of 11 meters and had a trunk circumference of 1 meter 55 cms. at 1 meter above ground but was dying back badly through a bark infection at ground level.

One would expect the nurserymen of Nantes to still grow this plant, but it appears to have been superseded by the slightly later introduction *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Gallissonniensis' which dates back to around about 1745. It was named after the estate of Roland-Michel, Bardon de la Gallissonnière, a lieutenant general of marines, who travelled extensively in parts of America, then possessed by France, and who became Governor of Canada in 1749. One cannot help wondering if it was he who brought the original introduction to La Maillardière, for, in the course of his travels, he brought home and established in his garden near Nantes many new species of trees and shrubs from abroad.

The earliest reports of *Magnolia grandiflora* in English gardens date back almost as far as that of La Maillardière. According to Loudon a plant was reported to have flowered in the garden of Sir Charles Wager at Parson's Green, near Fulham in 1838. If this plant had been raised from seed, as seems most likely, and it took the normal twenty years or more to flower, the date of its introduction could well have been prior to 1717 though the date usually quoted is 1737.

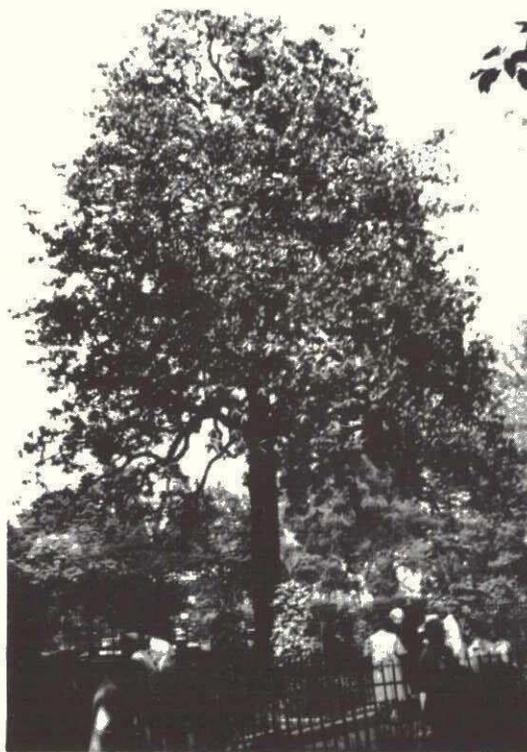
Peter Collinson (1693-1768), Quaker, botanist and linen draper, who lived at Ridgeway House, Mill Hill, near Hendon in Middlesex recorded . . . . "In 1959 there were, in the American Grove at Goodwood" (near Chichester in Sussex), "two fine great magnolias (*M. grandiflora*) about 20 feet high, that flowered annually," adding that his own tree of that species was raised from seed and first flowered in 1860 when 20 years old. Apparently the Goodwood magnolias were destroyed on the Duke of Richmond's death for Collinson wrote in 1788 that they no longer existed and that all moveable articles had been sold. One wonders if the magnolias could have been among them!

Loudon wrote in 1838 . . . . "The first tree of *Magnolia grandiflora* to be brought to England is said to have been planted in Gray's nursery at Fulham which was founded early in the 18th century, and all old trees of the kind in the country are said to have been propagated from it. The tree died about 1810; but its trunk, which measured 4 ft. 10 ins. in circumference, was till very lately, preserved. The branches extended over a surface 20 feet in diameter, it was as many feet high, and in the blossoming season, which lasted generally two or three months, it perfumed the whole neighbourhood. It was surrounded by stages from the ground to its summit, on which were placed pots containing layers for propagation. It was the number of these, and the exhaustion they caused, which killed the tree."

A similar fate befell another early introduction of *Magnolia grandiflora* which was raised in the Devonshire garden of Sir John Colliton near Exeter about 1737. This

form became renowned for its freedom of flowering and was named 'Exoniensis' after the city of Exeter. Loudon wrote . . . "This tree was cut down, through a mistake, about the year 1794. It had previously been much disfigured from the great number of layers that had been taken from it, and, though the trunk was 18 ins. in diameter, its height was not more than five feet. It had been surrounded by scaffolding for many years, in which tubs were placed to receive the branches laid down for propagation. The tree seems to have been rented by different gardeners, who at first sold the layers for five guineas each; but the price gradually fell to half a guinea."

It is not surprising that some of the finest specimens of *Magnolia grandiflora* in England today are to be found in South Devon. *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Exoniensis' is the same as 'Exmouth Variety' which remains to this day the most popular cultivar of *Magnolia grandiflora* in the United Kingdom. Because of its stiff, erect growth it is less liable to snow damage than most forms of this magnolia. Its leaves are long and narrow with traces of dusty indumentum on their undersides which is gradually shed. It usually commences to produce its immense creamy white flowers within a few seasons of planting. These are very fragrant and are borne, on older plants, over a long period often from July to December.



*Magnolia grandiflora* in the Orto Botanico at Padua  
Photo: Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.

#### RECORDED RATES OF INCREASE IN TRUNK GIRTHS ON MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA

Date and Location of Tree	Date of Measurement	At Age	Trunk Circumference 1 Meter Above Ground	Rate of Increase in Trunk Girth
Nantes France 1711	1795 1845	84 yrs. old 134 " "	1 m. 14 cms. 1 m. 55 cms.	41 cms. in 50 years
Padua Italy 1750	1887 1957	137 " " 220 " " still surviving	1 m. 70 cms. 2 m. 38 cms.	68 cms. in 83 years
Fulham England 1710	1810	100 yrs. old	1 m. 47 cms.	1 m. 47 cms. in approximately 100 years
Exeter England prior to 1737	1794	57 yrs. old	1 m. 47 cms.	1 m. 47 cms. in 57 years

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# The History of Magnolia *Campbellii* in Eugene, Ore.

JAMES GOSSLER  
Springfield, Oregon

FOR THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL INTRODUCTION of *M. Campbellii* to Eugene, Oregon, we are indebted to the late Del James, plantsman, collector and rhododendron hybridizer. Several years ago Mr. James was touring England and viewing the finest English gardens including Caerhays and he became quite fascinated by Asiatic Magnolias. Upon his return that season, he was sent a packet of *M. Campbellii* seed by G. H. Johnstone, later the author of "Asiatic Magnolias in Cultivation." From this small packet of seeds numbering 15, James successfully grew 12 trees. Through the years most of these trees have disappeared but three remain in fine flowering condition around the Eugene area.

One large 35' tree remains in vigorous and thriving health in the yard of the old James property on Floral Drive. This tree has a girth of 45" and is a magnificent specimen. Its flowers are a light pink shade. Another of the James trees is in the Gick Memorial collection in Hendricks Park. This tree was killed down by freezes when young but now is 30' tall and bears flowers huge in size and of a rich rose pink color. A third tree from this collection grows at the Hinsdale estate on the Umpqua River at Reedsport, Oregon.

Mr. James told me that his tree bloomed from seed at 15 years of age. This tree is protected somewhat by our native fir and is growing in rather heavy clay soil on a hillside. So far this tree, being over 20 years old, has never suffered from any bark split or other freeze damage and we have experienced occasional lows of 5°. Some years the precocious bloom buds are ruined by early March frosts but lately it has flowered very successfully. The James tree bears copious quantities of seed which are viable.

*M. Campbellii* grows very vigorously when once established in the Willamette Valley, in Fort Bragg, San Francisco, and milder locations on Puget Sound.

To those of us who cherish a truly gorgeous Magnolia blossom with regard to color, size, and excellent substance, *M. Campbellii* is in the first rank. We find variations of color from deep rose pink to light shades of more delicate pink tones. The tree as a garden specimen is large in scale and is unquestionably a handsome addition to the garden. The sight of perhaps 200 of these lovely pink flowers against a blue sky is a delightful sight to behold.

Granted that this Magnolia is a slow one to flower, I still think the wait is fully justified. One of the obvious flaws of our present society is impatience with attaining objects and then ruling them into early obsolescence. Sometimes, at least in the plant world, the anticipation of an event may even overshadow the actual happening. In the case of the tardy flowering *Campbellii*, the reward fully compensates the connoisseur of truly fine plants.



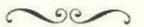
# The Magnolia Vines

ELIZABETH LAWRENCE  
Charlotte, North Carolina

IT IS A PITY that the two climbers of the Magnolia Family have been largely overlooked. I have never found a source for the Magnolia Vine, *Schisandra propinqua*, although I have searched for it for many years and it is grown on the West Coast. Harry E. Saier lists seeds of *S. chinensis*, which is said to be hardier than the Himalayan species. It is grown for its scarlet berries, rather than the small, white, fragrant flowers. Both species are deciduous and vines of both sexes are needed in order to obtain fruit.

Another vine belonging to the Magnoliaceae is *Kadsura japonica*. L. H. Bailey in his *Cyclopedia of Horticulture*, quotes Charles S. Sargent as saying that the flowers of this species are not hardy, but that, "it is a plant of extraordinary beauty in the autumn when the clusters of scarlet fruit are ripe, their brilliancy being heightened by contrast with the dark green, lustrous, persistent leaves." I have grown *Kadsura* for fifty years and never yet seen a fruit; I suppose this is due to my not having plants of both sexes. My plant came from Fruitland Nurseries, but they no longer list it. Mounovia, the only other source I know of, has likewise dropped it.

The vine is evergreen, but in my garden has always lost its leaves in late winter. In Raleigh, North Carolina, I saw it growing on the wall of a brick house, where it was perfectly evergreen and beautiful even without fruit. The flowers may not be showy, but they are charming. They are like tiny Magnolias, with waxy, creamy petals and a wine-red boss of stamens in the center. They hang on slender stalks and bloom in summer, some time between the last of June and the last of August.



## D. Todd Gresham

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY, and all who knew him, will be deeply grieved to learn of the death, on April 18, of D. Todd Gresham at his home in Santa Cruz, California.

Todd Gresham was one of the founders of this organization and served with distinction as its Secretary-Treasurer until 1968, when, because of poor health, he asked to be relieved.

Few persons can rival Mr. Gresham in his love for Magnolias and perhaps no one, at least in recent years, has made a larger number of crosses. It is gratifying to know that most of his hybrids will be perpetuated at the Gloster Arboretum in Gloster, Mississippi, and at the Tom Dodd Nurseries in Semmes, Alabama.

Todd was a frequent contributor to the pages of this NEWSLETTER and his colorful and often lyrical writings will be sadly missed. A fuller account of his accomplishments will appear in a future issue.

# A Praiser, I, of Fraseri

PHILIP J. SAVAGE, JR.

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

WITH THAT CORNY TITLE, you can tell I am a frustrated poet.

Back in the late thirties, a small nurseryman I knew down in Monroe, Mich., got some collected, (wild seedling) Magnolias from North Carolina, along with cut-back Rhododendrons, Pieris and other mountain plants. He ordered *M. tripetala* after reading that it had a "more fibrous" root system than *M. acuminata*, and he planned to line out two hundred and fifty collected seedlings and grafted them the following year to the hybrids *Soulangiana* and *Lennei*, these being about the only Magnolias that would sell in Michigan.

Somehow the plants didn't get grafted, but did get cultivated, and at least two hundred survived. World War II ran its tragic course, and in May of 1946 I saw the plants again. By now, naturally, they were eight to ten footers, in spite of being only two two feet apart in the rows. Along with *tripetala*, about ten percent were *M. macrophylla*, these conspicuous with their bright green, pubescent branches and much larger leaves. Six plants were *M. Fraseri*, which I had not seen before, and examined with great interest.

On new growth of *M. Fraseri*, the leaf surfaces refract the light in an unusual way, something as gasoline looks floating on water. It isn't a gloss, it's a slight iridescence, and gives the harpoon-shaped young leaves a look of real distinction. On many individual plants of the Magnoliaceae, there is a tendency for new leaves to be crimson-maroon in color, sometimes lasting until the foliage is almost full size. One of the six little *Fraseris* was as dark as a 'Schwedler' Maple, and didn't turn green until nearly July. I was completely charmed by this crowded little tree, and went back to see it several times. I kept thinking how striking it would look as a large tree, with big white flowers among dark red new leaves.

I never got to own this pretty thing, much as I wanted it. All these "overgrown" Magnolias were suddenly grubbed out and burned, and the land planted to Japanese Yews. There was comfort in the thought, however, that if one out of six were exceptional, how about the best out of a thousand?

Although placed in the same section (*Rytidospermum*) of the genus, as the better known *M. tripetala*, the two species are really very distinct. Neither natural or man-made hybrids between them have been reported, or suspected, even though trees of the two species may grow within yards of each other in the Smoky Mountains. *M. Fraseri* is always a better furnished, less gaunt looking tree than *M. tripetala*. Its branches are wiry and slender, with many more twigs, and the leaves, which mature in a great range of sizes, sway and dance on their long, red, petioles throughout a well filled and shapely crown.

Uncrowded trees of this species that have reached a good size put on a spectacular flowering display, since most of the flowers open when the leaves are only two or three

inches long. Their scent is like mild Sweet Bay, very pleasant, with no resemblance to the "billy goat" odor of *M. tripetala*.

English writers have mentioned yellow flowers on this species, and it now appears that such a clone indeed exists, and has been returned to America, after being educated, or at least improved, abroad. Shapely yellow flowers and bright red young leaves would be a goal to work for.

*M. Fraseri* is about as arctic as *M. virginiana*, and there are a few quite large trees in Detroit suburbs. With good culture, in full sunlight, it flowers in five or six years from seed.

Hybrids with *M. virginiana* and *M. Sieboldii* should be possible, and certainly desirable. This should be no problem to President Joe McDaniel, who seems able to break down the inhibitions of the most prudish Magnolias.



## Four New Cultivars

AT THE MEETING OF THE MAGNOLIA SOCIETY, held in San Francisco on February 22-23, the question of the publication of new cultivar names came up for discussion. It was pointed out that in addition to being registered such names should also be described in some reputable publication such as a book, a botanical or horticultural periodical or a printed (rather than mimeographed) nursery catalog. It was agreed that the Society's NEWSLETTER was an appropriate medium for recording all new names and the editor was authorized to see to it that this be done.

The following cultivar names have recently been registered with the International Registration Authority at the Arboretum of The Barnes Foundation in Merion, Pa., and are here placed on record with brief descriptions and identification of originator.

*Magnolia grandiflora* 'Santa Cruz'. D. Todd Gresham, Santa Cruz, California, who says of it, "a selection clone of medium plant habit, foliage plentifully furnished on tree; individual leaves sharply elliptic, with plentiful indumentum; distinguishing feature, a flower of good form, slightly ivory at some seasons, averaging 22 tepals of strongly pervasive lemon odor. Flower 9 inches in diameter."

*M. grandiflora* 'St. George'. A. A. Pickard, Magnolia Gardens, Canterbury, England. Similar to *grandiflora lanceolata*, but broader leaf, well russeted, more vigorous, 22-25 petals, creamy white.

*M. grandiflora* 'Anne Pickard'. A. A. Pickard, Magnolia Gardens, Canterbury, England. Identical to 'St. George' but with variegated leaf. Petals 22-25, very fragrant, creamy white.

*M. 'Sundew'*. A. A. Pickard, Magnolia Gardens, Canterbury, England. Vigorous, believed to be seedling of *M. 'Picture'*. Vigorous; flower appears to have affinity with *Campbellii*, large, 10 inches across, fragrant.

—J. M. F., Jr.



# Magnolia Village, U.S.A.

THE VILLAGE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE on Long Island, New York (population 27,000) celebrated the 75th Anniversary of its incorporation in 1968. The Village decided that the Jubilee observance should include the adoption of an "official" tree.

At the first meeting of the Anniversary Committee, headed by Charles V. Day, a former Village Trustee, the Rockville Centre Historical and Landmark Society representative proposed that the magnolia tree be designated. The reason for the selection was given as "the very old and very beautiful Soulanguiana Magnolia Tree known to generations of residents" on the grounds of the one-time home of a deceased resident, Dr. Devillo Bulson, at the intersection of two old residential streets.

The Anniversary Committee made the recommendation to the Village governing body, the Board of Trustees, and the Board acted favorably. Late in April a young Soulanguiana Magnolia Tree, presented by the local Garden Club, was planted, with appropriate ceremonies, on the grounds of the Village Hall. (See Figure).

At the same time the Village authorities issued a suggestion to homeowners that they also plant magnolias and the suggestion has been followed by a number of residents. The hope is that the Magnolia with its beautiful spring-time flowers be widely planted near Village residential streets to enhance their already attractive appearance.

The new Rockville Centre municipal flag, adopted as an Anniversary event, contains in its design a Magnolia. The design was selected from the scores submitted in a contest run among local high school art students.

—J. M. F., Jr.

## Magnolia x Veitchii

ELIZABETH LAWRENCE  
Charlotte, North Carolina

IN THE FALL OF 1950 Mr. Sawada sent me a small plant of *Magnolia* x *Veitchii*, the hybrid between *M. Campbellii* and *M. denudata* which originated about 1907.

My specimen grew to a height of nine feet in the first two years and is now about 25 feet tall and perhaps a little wider. It first bloomed on March 15, 1952, and usually blooms about the middle of the month, although the season varies and the first flowers may appear any time from the first of March to early April. The flowers are invariably caught sooner or later by frost or wind or both, but for a few days the tree is beautiful.

Ben Morrison used to write that the flowers were extremely fragrant and scented all of his garden in Pass Christian, Mississippi, but they do not seem fragrant to me. The tree has never fruited.



Planting the "official" Magnolia tree at Rockville Centre, Long Island, N. Y.



## A Report From Iowa

ALBERT B. FERGUSON  
Center Point, Iowa

I THOUGHT I HAD BETTER GIVE A REPORT ON Magnolias in our area.

There is at least one old specimen of *M. acuminata* in a neighboring town that measures well over two feet, nearer to 30 inches. Eight or ten years ago it had quite a bit of small twig die-back for some unknown reason. It has perfectly recovered from it now. It seldom bears any seed, then less than 100 for the whole tree.

*M. tripetala* seems perfectly hardy. It never has had any winter injury, although it was caught a couple of times severely by late spring freezes here at the nursery. The parent tree in Cedar Rapids did not get injured. The parent tree blooms every year and always has well-filled fruiting bodies which are quite pinkish in late summer.

Several years ago I bought seed of *M. obovata*. A few of these are ten feet in height. They seem perfectly hardy and look very much like *M. acuminata*. The leaves are probably a little larger. They have not bloomed yet.

We have a plant of *M. Kobus*, three feet or more high. It has not made much growth and has not bloomed. *M. stellata* is very satisfactory. 'Dr. Merrill' is outstanding in flower and a good grower when once established.

*M. x Soulanguiana* is fairly common and generally quite satisfactory. There are a few plants of 'Rustica Rubra' or 'Nigra' in Cedar Rapids area. I don't know the plants well enough to distinguish which is which. They bloom occasionally in late summer.

# Magnolias In Western Iowa

HERBERT L. WHITE  
Woodbine, Iowa 51579

IN 1940, an Iowa nursery catalogued *Magnolia* × *Soulangiana*. That started my interest in growing Magnolias. I had always thought that none would grow this far north. Now I believe a great number will do well here, and I am testing quite a few to see. I like to buy two of the same kind, as that makes a better test. When you set just one plant, something may happen to it, and you might not be sure just what it was.

When my first *Soulangiana* arrived in 1940, the Express agent called and said he had a box of flowers for me at the depot. That one did not grow. I think it was either too far in bloom or else the earth ball was much too small. I think I would have had a better chance with a bare-rooted tree that had more roots.

Some people said when they saw this tree with its small wilted leaves hanging on, that I could not grow Magnolias here. Nevertheless, in 1941 I ordered another from the same nursery. It bloomed that year and all but two or three years since, around 1952 when we were not permitted to use city water for irrigation. The tree showed some damage the next spring. I am not sure whether it was due to summer drought, winter damage, or very, very excessive watering around October 1, when we were again permitted to use the water. I believe it was the excessive late watering.

My experience with a dozen species and forms tried five years or longer is summarized in the table. I have a large number of others too small to flower, and will report on them at some later date.

Magnolia Species and Cultivars	Date Set	Observations
Denudata	1963 (bare root)	One or two flowers in 1967
Fraseri	1963	One flower on 12-foot tree in protected place in 1968
Fraseri	1964	Tree unprotected, also vigorous
Grandiflora 'Samuel Sommer'	1963	Deteriorated each year (see below)
Grandiflora 'Saint Mary'	1963	Made no new growth; died
Loebneri 'Merrill'	1963	Had a few flowers in 1968
Soulangiana (common form)	1941	Successful (see below)
Soulangiana 'Grace McDade'	1964	Surviving (see below)
Soulangiana 'Lennei'	1950	Not satisfactory, though in sheltered site
Soulangiana 'Lombardy Rose'	1964	A few flowers in 1967 and 1968
Stellata 'Waterlily'	1949	Good performance (see below)
Tripetala	1960 (2 trees)	Good (see below)
Virginiana var. virginiana	1956	Flowers every year (see below)

*M. stellata* 'Waterlily' flowered every year, with possibly one or two exceptions. The first and only winter damage to this tree was noticed in the spring of 1966. About half the tree was killed but it is making a nice recovery. My opinion is that the damage was done in the spring. A hot spring had advanced the growth too far when we had some real late, very cold weather.

*M. virginiana* has had no winter or spring damage. It does not flower heavily, but every year, and ripens seeds.

One of my two *M. tripetala* trees had several flowers in 1968. The other died to the ground once, but is making a good recovery.

The climate seems to be too cold for *M. grandiflora*. 'Samuel Sommer' had flower buds formed when I received

it, and it flowered beautifully that year, but never since. I boxed it in with oak leaves each winter, hoping to save until the tree got some size. It deteriorates each year. My 'Saint Mary' made no growth from the beginning.

Both 'Grace McDade' and 'Lombardy Rose' were received with burlapped balls on January 15, 1964, and I kept them until spring in the basement in bushel baskets filled with soil. Each had one or two flowers while in basement.

Magnolias add much beauty to a home or garden. Many will flower while still young and are inexpensive, so if they live only a few years they are still worthwhile. The labor in connection with them, of course, is a pleasure to me.

EDITORIAL NOTE: Western Iowa, with its continental climate, is admittedly a harder place to grow many Magnolias than are wide areas near both coasts. Magnolia, Harrison County, Iowa, unlike the Magnolia in Massachusetts, was not named for a native grove, for nearest wild trees of *M. acuminata* are nearly two states distant in Missouri and southern Illinois. I had thought, when I gathered seeds from a mature *M. virginiana* in Shenandoah, Iowa, three Augusts ago, that it might be about the most northwesterly of its species cultivated in the corn belt. But now Mr. White reports that it is one of numerous species succeeding with him in Woodbine, Harrison County, about equidistant from Shenandoah and the southeast tip of South Dakota. A lifelong gardener and retired postal worker, he is one of those pioneers with plants whose experiments make it easier for those who follow him to succeed with varied ornamental plantings, Magnolias included. Let's hear from more members who are having success (or failure) with Magnolias in difficult climates.—J. C. McD.

## GOSSLER FARMS NURSERY

1200 WEAVER ROAD  
SPRINGFIELD, OREGON 97477

Magnolia Campbellii*	12" \$ 7.50	24" \$10.00	60" \$20.00
<i>M. cordata</i>		24" 12.00	
<i>M. Dawsoniana</i>			60" 35.00
<i>M. denudata</i>		24" 12.50	60" 20.00
<i>M. grandiflora</i> 'St. Mary'			48" 10.00
<i>M. Kobus</i>		24" 7.50	
<i>M. × Loebneri</i> 'Merrill'		36" 15.00	
<i>M. macrophylla</i> *	12" 7.50	24" 10.00	60" 15.00
<i>M. salicifolia</i>		36" 10.00	60" 15.00
<i>M. Sargentiana</i> 'Robusta'		24" 12.50	60" 20.00
<i>M. sinensis</i>		24" 12.00	36" 15.00
<i>M. × Soulangiana</i> 'Lennei'		24" 7.50	
<i>M. Sprengeri</i> 'Diva'*	12" 7.50	24" 10.00	
<i>M. stellata</i>		36" 10.00	
<i>M. × Thompsoniana</i>	15" 10.00		
<i>M. tripetala</i>		36" 7.50	60" 10.00
<i>M. × Veitchii</i>		24" 12.50	60" 20.00
<i>M. virginiana</i>		24" 7.50	36" 10.00
<i>M. × Watsonii</i>	12" 10.00	36" 20.00	
<i>M. Wilsonii</i> *	12" 7.50	24" 10.00	

Many of our Magnolias are on their own roots, some are propagated by grafting. Most are container grown, shifted frequently so not rootbound. They are thrifty, well grown plants. \*Special rates available.