



Robin Notes

by Robin Editor, VIRGINIA MELNICK
(Address on inside cover)

Mrs. S. R. Harmon, ElDorado, Ark. (Archolie) - I had trouble getting my magnolias to live through the first summer after they were potted. After they made spring growth they would die. I talked with a Hort. Professor at the college in Lafayette, Louisiana, and he advised me to feed the cuttings (Liquid fert.) after they were rooted but leave them in the rooting medium until the following fall before they were potted. He seemed to think they just would not make sufficient roots the first year. - Mr. Dodd from Dodd's Nursery in Mobile, Ala. informed me that *M. denudata* could be rooted successfully if it is kept *hot* so I intend to put them in my fiberglass greenhouse which gets very hot with sun through that roof.

Harry Heineman (Scituate, Mass.) in mid-December was clearing a half acre of his woods to make a small Magnolia nursery and eventually conduct hybridizations. Harry visited RR member Polly Hill's arboretum on Martha's Vineyard in October. He reports good germination of reluctant Magnolia seed, induced by a second two-month cold treatment of some that failed to sprout when sown earlier in the year.

Joe McDaniel (Urbana, Ill.) on December 17, gives some of us old dull knives hope for eventual success at grafting by confessing that not all his splices stick all of the time. He also reports Little Lake Nursery, Willits, Calif., now has a *Magnolia nitida* plant which should eventually be a supply source for U. S. magnoliaphiles. Joe's travels in the fall and early winter covered Arkansas, Missouri, Hawaii (where he picked up an American Horticultural Society award), California, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama.

Alice Foster (Union Grove, Wis.) apologizes on January 26 for not being able to report on her magnolias because she dreads wading through the snow to find them, but predicts fair bloom in her garden in the spring.

Carl Amason (Calion, Ark.) by February 8 had *Magnolia stellata* flowers opening and *M. denudata* and *M. X soulangiana* seemed on the way. Carl was getting ready for a trip to Gloster Arboretum in southwest Mississippi and Tom Dodd Nurseries near Mobile to examine a number of unnamed Gresham hybrids with a view to possible future selections from this California-bred population.

Ginnie Melnick (Jackson, Tenn.) by February 17 was able to report that all the small Magnolias she moved from Asheville, N.C., were surviving except a *M. grandiflora* 'St. Mary.' She had hoped her westward trek to smaller acreage would take her out of range of *Liriodendron tulipifera*, whose towering presence

and greedy roots had made it tough to grow other plants at Asheville, but Joe McDaniel (whose eyes seem never to come unglued from the horizon) pointed out one to her at some distance across the lake while visiting her at her new home. Ginnie just hopes the lake will stop the roots! *

By March 2, Walter Flory (Winston-Salem, N.C.) is seeing *M. stellata* and occasionally glimpsing what he thinks may be *M. sprengeri* 'Diva' in full bloom around town, as well as bud swell on *M. liliflora* and *M. X soulangiana*. Walter passed around copies of several authoritative modern taxonomical treatments involving Magnolias and their relatives.

Spring was in almost full cry (and hue) as Perry Narten wrote from Arlington, Va., on March 11, where some *M. X soulangiana* had reached full flower. At Perry's plant collections 100 miles northward near Harrisburg, Pa., a *M. salicifolia* was beguiled into opening flowers on a warm day and they were promptly blasted at nightfall by 20 degrees F. Perry, who peregrinates almost weekly in the west, reports mention of the word "Magnolia" in Cheyenne will get you a "no comprende" look. Perry seconds our praise and pride at the way proprietor McDaniel handled the recent AMS seed distribution, not only practically guaranteeing good germination but also underwriting an issue or two of the AMS newsletter with the proceeds.

Polly Hill (Wilmington, Del.) reports (March 22) that a tree at Leaming Arboretum, Martha's Vineyard, Mass., from which seeds were supplied to the AMS seed counter and to some members individually, has been classified by Dr. Stephen Spongberg of Arnold Arboretum as *M. sieboldii*, subspecies *sinensis*, and not *M. wilsonii*, as it was formerly thought to be. Dr. Spongberg is updating Rehder's manual and the *sinensis* subspecies listing will appear under *M. sieboldii* in the manual's key to the cultivated Magnolias.

* Harold Hopkins gave Robin Editor Ginnie a hand on some of the above letters, including (obviously) this one.

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