

The AMS Seed Counter...

The illness of President Joe McDaniel with high blood pressure and kidney problems, along with surgery, a few weeks after the April 1-2 meeting of AMS in Washington required him to relinquish for the present some of the hatful of chores he was handling up to then. Perry Narten of Arlington, Virginia, has taken charge of the AMS Seed Counter, which Joe had already planned to turn over to a successor. Immediate transfer was made necessary by his illness.

Perry Narten has his own arboretum in Pennsylvania and maintains facilities for processing and storing sizable quantities of seed, including Magnolia. He has had years of experience at it. He feels he'll be able to run the AMS Seed Counter along with his present work and have no problems, and he has been promised help by other AMS members in the area with sorting and packing and licking stamps, if he hollers.

Perry urges that all contributors to the Seed Counter send seed to him as soon as possible after collection from trees so he can prepare them and send them out to those making orders by late fall or early winter. Individual seed lots listed will be coded to enable the purchaser to know the name of the contributor and so appropriate credit can go to those who support the society's objectives and Magnolia culture through seed contributions.

As did the preceding proprietor, Perry will make every effort to assure that seed are quickly and properly handled, stored, and dispatched to keep germination percentages high. Send your seed contributions to: Perry Narten, AMS Seed Counter, 3708 North Randolph Street, Arlington, Virginia 22207.

... and the AMS Newsletter

Harold Hopkins of Bethesda, Maryland, will serve as editor of the AMS Newsletter until a more permanent arrangement is made. Although Harold is an amateur Magnoliologist, he's an editor by trade and plans to issue the N.L. this year in October and again in December, and thenceforth at predictable times, probably June and December, AMS finances permitting.

The AMS Newsletter is far and away the Society's principal expense item, and justifiably so. It's the only tangible cement other than our plants that binds us together, and it enjoys a reputation for provocative original articles produced by careful writers who know their subjects. There's no comparable publication anywhere dedicated to the Magnoliaceae.

We hope to carry a sensible balance of articles representing both personal and scientific observations about Magnolias and their culture and to continue to make the Society's official publication one members and other interested persons will want to read, and then hold as reference works.

If you've been thinking that some of your studies, observations, theories, or experiences concerning Magnolias ought to be conveyed to others, the AMS



Magnolia kobus 'Merrill'

membership is your proper audience and the AMS Newsletter the right place for your article. Write it out, making sure of the facts as you know them or qualifying them where necessary, and send the piece along to us, whether it's one page of text or ten. If you've got good black and white photos that illustrate your point or that you think will fetch the reader, send them along too. If you want any material returned, be sure you request it when submitting your article. Send articles and photos or other graphic materials--or any suggestions or ideas you have in mind for articles--to: Harold Hopkins, AMS Newsletter, 6517 Lone Oak Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20034.

Although we don't think the AMS Newsletter has ever had any lapse in quality in any issue, we are keenly aware that members get impatient when the Newsletter is published late or at unpredictable times. This is understandable. The member doesn't get timely information soon enough to use it to best advantage or perhaps begins to wonder from the long silences whether there really is a society of fellow magnoliaphiles out there. Because of this and because the Society before 1977 had never actually sent out individual notices to members reminding them to pay up by a certain date (January 1), many simply let their dues lapse for lack of jogging. This falloff in financial support and the rising costs of paper and printing have sometimes left uncertainty about the Society's future.

We've finally decided we have to do what all amateur groups must do to exist. Our hardworking secretary, Virginia Melnick, who keeps us all honest, has been rounding up delinquents and asking them to pay up, and the Society at its April 1-2 meeting reluctantly voted to increase annual dues to \$7.00 beginning with 1978 dues next January 1.

We hope that from now on we can perform well enough for you to want to keep your membership in the only society dedicated to promoting the wider and better culture of the most magnificent of flowering trees. Stay with us! There are some good things ahead!