

Meet Us in Saint Louis

The American Magnolia Society will hold its seventh national meeting April 27-28, 1979, in St. Louis. The Mound City on the Mississippi is, in fact, where it all began 15 years ago when a dozen magnolia diehards, in town for a meeting of the American Horticultural Society, called a rump session and decided to go it on their own in matters concerning their favorite plant rather than submerge their magnolia activities within a larger horticultural organization. They were quickly joined by others from all over the country.

St. Louis was the pioneers' Gateway to the West, the jumping off place in spring 1804 for the famous Lewis and Clark Expedition to explore the vast regions just acquired by President Jefferson's U.S. purchase of the Louisiana Territory from Napoleon Bonaparte.

Outfitter of fur traders, gold miners, cowboys and Conestoga caravans, trade territory of a certain lady who relied on her diamonds and powder and store-bought hair to do business, terminus for steamboats and cardsharps, and fountainhead of classic ragtime, the city with the Big Arch

overlooking the Big Muddy also is the home of the Missouri Botanical Garden, the nation's oldest such institution. It is this 79-acre garden spot of middle America which will play host to American Magnolia Society members at a time when the grounds should be aflame with Spring's bounty.

Selection of St. Louis for this year's meeting follows Society policy of scheduling its events in different sites around the country to give more members an opportunity to attend a Society function without traveling so far. Previous meetings have been held in Washington (1977), Philadelphia (1971), Mobile (1970), San Francisco (1969), and Memphis (1968).

Long range plans at present include the possible scheduling of a national meeting of the full Society membership at least every two years..

Program Chairman Dean McCoy with AMS Secretary-Treasurer Dick Figlar and Charles Tubeing of the Missouri Botanical Garden, all living in the St. Louis area, are now working with President Joe McDaniel and others to plan a program well worth attending, with presentations of the most



MAGNOLIA X "WADA'S PICTURE" AT VICO MORCOTE

Friends of Sir Peter and Lady Smithers received a 1978 holiday greeting showing this specimen of Magnolia x 'Wada's Picture' in flower at their home in Switzerland.