Magnolia heptapeta (denudata) *at Ridgewood, New Jersey, as photographed by Dick Figlar.*

hybrids which have been produced either deliberately or by chance may possibly contribute new and worthwhile dominant characters to some magnolias. It's a garden sidepath that may be worth tripping for a step or two.

Wada Does It Again

A new seedling of *Magnolia stellata* 'Rubra' that's dark pink and has more than 40 tepals per flower has been introduced by Japanese nurseryman K. Wada. Joe McDaniel reports that a magazine photograph of the flower sent to him by Mr. Wada shows it to be darker than *M. stellata* 'Dawn.' Mr. Wada calls it *M. stellata* 'Rubra Chrysanthemumiflora,' which is not only kind of longish but its Latinate name also is contrary to the current Code of Nomenclature. Joe has suggested Mr. Wada select a name in either Japanese or English for the new deep pink cultivar. Joe said he would also try to import some scions from Mr. Wada's nursery. Mr. Wada's current address is shown in a list of address changes elsewhere in this issue.

Brooklyn's 'Elizabeth'

'Elizabeth' is the name of the former Brooklyn Botanic Gardens No. 391 hybrid of *Magnolia acuminata* and *M. heptapeta* registered by Plant patent 4145 on October 30, 1978, and listed for possible commercial introduction in 1979.

The name honors the present director of the garden, Miss Elizabeth Scholz. The original tree, now 21 years old, has stood in the plants at BBG's Kitchawan Research Station, Ossining, New York, where it first flowered in 1972. Some trees of 'Elizabeth' are being tested as far north as Zone 4, according to the registrant, Dr. Lola Koerting, the present plant breeder at Kitchawan. Ossining is in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 6A (average annual minimum temperature 0° to -5° F.) but grafts in Champaign County, Illinois, have withstood -20° F. with no injury, so it is recommended for Zones 5 and 6 as well as more southerly regions, where its clear yellow flower with long tapering form offers a significant contribution to the list of flowering trees of early to mid-spring. A more complete description appeared in this newsletter, Vol. XIII No. 2, pp. 21-22. Propagation material has been sent to Gossler's, Little Lake, and Tom Dodd nurseries.

Hellbox

Wherein the editor, erring often and human always, contritely owns to commissions and omissions in past issues, humbly and tardily attempts restitution, begs forgiveness for misleading readers and misprinting authors, shrives himself, delivers homily and opinion and incidental intelligence, and sheds sundry weights from his conscience.

The AMS is one of the most elite horticultural organizations going, made up of pros and amateurs drawn together by their common liking for magnolias. The editor is definitely an amateur and, except for occasional regrets at a misspent life with large lapses of non-magnolia activity, nevertheless feels as steeped in the subject sometimes as the busiest pro. Being so involved means thinking about magnolias during those bleak periods when there are no flowers to be seen except in pictures and perhaps the fleeting inflorescence of *M. coco* in the flowerpot across the room as the lengthening days stir it to a new cycle of growth.

Why can't people like us have one or more of our favorites around all year long to hint at the things to come in the flowering season? Why can't one of our favorite magnolia flowers be dried, as some other flowers are, and mounted in one of those little glass or plastic doodads to suggest the good times ahead?

Why not, indeed! Have any members had experience drying and preserving magnolia flowers to be put under glass? Diligent questioning has turned up nobody yet who ever tried this particular genus. Some, experienced with drying other flowers, point out that fleshy petaled flowers such as magnolia have considerable moisture in their various parts, and can be tricky to dry properly; that the process probably would involve patience and some knowledge of flower drying in general; and that certainly precise timing would be needed to process a dried magnolia with good color and texture preserved.

One thing is certain. Even if the moisture is expertly removed, the flower itself is going to be a lot smaller than it was before drying. How much smaller nobody seems prepared to guess. Would *M. macrophylla,* for instance, go from dinner plate to saucer size?

Developing a method for drying magnolia blossoms would seem a noble venture that, if successful, could give the developer considerable satisfaction. If he or she were then willing to share the secret with others, through a piece in our Newsletter, it could give many more of us almost the same satisfaction, seeing our favorite captured at last in all of, or most of, its beauty.

Are any members with flower drying experience or who are good at thinking things through willing to have a go at it? I'm sure many members would like to see the results in the Newsletter, including pictures of the finished flower or helpful photos showing how it was done.

Those who've noticed the improvement in appearance between the last issue of the Newsletter (Vol. XIV No. 2) and the preceding issues have Phil Savage, a former editor, to thank. Phil gave up the editorship a couple of years ago but remained hooked on the society's objectives. He laid the groundwork for obtaining the services of Searles Graphics, East Patchogue, New York, and it eventually came to pass. The excellent typography, paper stock, photographic reproduction, and printing we are currently getting is the result. We're also able to get reasonably prompt service.

From Ginnie Melnick, our former secretary-treasurer, comes a suggestion that we ought to consider establishing a plant finder exchange and a pollen exchange for members. Being able to find the magnolia cultivar or species plant you are looking for through some kind of systematic where-it's-at plan sounds attractive, as does a way for members, who are interested, to exchange pollen of various magnolias. At first glance, the job of carrying through projects such as this seems formidable, especially in view of the infrequency of the Newsletter's publication. But our very successful Seed Counter started out as an idea too, and setting it up seemed like a forbidding venture. Fortunately, members didn't let the difficulties

intimidate them and our Seed Counter is now a going concern. If you agree with Ginnie's motion or notion, write and let her have your suggestions: Mrs. W.B. Melnick, Rt. 6, Box 347A, Jackson, Tenn. 38301.

One of the most attractive features of Neil G. Treseder's newly published book, "Magnolias," is its four dozen color illustrations that, with drawings and photographs, astonish even old magnolia hands at the diversity of the genus. A good many of the photographs show magnolias growing in the United States, and in fact six of them were shot by AMS President Joe McDaniel, who also had a hand in naming or breeding them.

As a country boy from Mississippi, where six species of native magnolias strive and thrive, I saw a magnolia or two in my salad days, but it was many years later that I began to think of the consequences of sawing those tidy blocks of firewood from sturdy logs of *grandiflora,* of clearing *virginiana* out of a swamp bottom slough where corn would grow in the dry part of the summer, and of a few other follies of the short run which constituted my youth.

By the time regrets began to nag at me I was a seasoned news reporter with a stomachful of recording sundry phenomena for posteriority. I had to recognize and use the important and essential and to skip the trivial, or de minimis, as the lawyers call it; but now I'm reborn, and it's the uncomplicated things that make me soft in the head.

Some years ago I began to like magnolias inordinately, and now I've become fond of editing when it's about magnolias. That job as I see it is to try to do my best to help a writer reach and teach and preach to his audience. It means making sure the printer does him justice and sometimes it means tinkering a little with syntax so no reader will miss his message.

In this issue is a piece I started out to improve. Reading along I thought, "Surely I'll reach a rough spot that needs smoothing out, and can begin to earn my fabulous salary." Well, I read it from "plastic pan" to "help from man" and I couldn't find a thing that needs fixing, not even a misspelling. Joe McDaniel has always been a stickler for spelling, anyway. He calls the piece "Seeds I." Why don't you see if you can improve it? My first look at "Seeds I" was several weeks ago; I have just looked at it again and still see nothing that needs a hired gun.

One thing I will do. Next autumn I'm going to take off a day or two from the slave market and go somewhere and find a magnolia of some kind or another, ripe for plucking. It's the least I can do. And you know what? I think some of you, perhaps several of you, will decide to do the same thing. In the meantime, I'm sharpening my pencil for "Seeds II."

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