

# The 1979 Meeting in St. Louis

The American Magnolia Society's seventh national meeting at the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis on April 27-28, 1979, has to be considered a success: everybody had some of the action and a lot of things got done that will, we are sure, make your society a greater force in the promotion of magnolias and their wider cultivation in gardens in the U.S. and other countries where members live.

The program put together by resident members Bill Secunda, Dean McCoy, Charlie Tubesing, and Dick Figlar was well received. The only things to mar a perfect get-together were some unseasonable low temperatures that caught some of those attending unprepared and the sight of shriveled *Magnolia grandifloras* that attested to the drastic winters the Mound City area has undergone the past couple of years.

The Society's new structure as a not-for-profit corporation, set up so that one hopes it now will have plenty of growing room, was unanimously approved and the members attending elected a 15-person board of directors or trustees to choose officers and to make the society's major decisions.

The board decided to schedule the Society's national meetings annually

henceforth instead of sporadically and to decide and issue notice well in advance where and when the next year's meeting will be held. This will give members and prospective program participants ample notice of dates and places in making their plans. The 1980 meeting will be held at the University of Washington Arboretum in Seattle on March 30-31, and members will receive a mailed notice of program particulars when things are lined up.

After convening on Friday (April 27) and hearing welcomes by Dr. Peter Raven, the garden director, and his staff, the 31 members attending were split into two touring parties led by Charlie Tubesing and John E. Elsley of the staff to view the several attractions. There are enough of these for several days of tours and the financial and physical assistance the garden has received from civic and gardening groups throughout the region have made it a green showplace. The viewing, of course, was punctuated by the pleasure and amenities of meeting other members you have wanted to meet and getting reacquainted with those you have met, but don't see often enough.

The evening business session and program included presentations by Jack Fogg on the



*Charles Tubesing (short sleeves), AMS member on the staff of the Missouri Botanical Garden, led one of the two garden tour groups at the St. Louis meeting.*

ubiquity of *Magnolia grandiflora* in gardens the world over, with Jack's own color slides, taken while globe girdling with tour groups he has led; Phil Savage (with pictures) on his hybridization of *Michelia doltsopa* × *Michelia figo* (he has named the hybrid for Jack Fogg); Phil Seitner, explaining his artistic mock-ups of foliage characteristics of some magnolias in the Rytidospermum Section, where he has special interests; Martin Stoner, discussing and answering questions on magnolia diseases and stress problems; sales and contributed plant materials and artifacts for the Society cashbox, plus giveaways. Lola Koerting updating members on Brooklyn Botanical Garden's hybridization work with *M. acuminata* and *M. denudata* parents; color slides of some of the Gresham hybrids at Gloster Arboretum in Mississippi shown by Dr. John Giordano and Dr. John Smith; and other glimpses of Magnolia lore in slide presentations.

Officers elected by the board: Joseph C. McDaniel, president; Philip J. Savage, Jr., vice president; Richard B. Figlar, secretary-treasurer; and Joseph Hickman, registered corporate agent.



At the grafting demonstrations during the St. Louis meeting Ed Hetzer (right) shows John Smith a *Magnolia grandiflora* scion ready for grafting.

Perry Narten will continue running the Seed Counter as seed chairman and August Kehr was named to get the new Magnolia Pollen Bank underway as pollen chairman. Jack Fogg continues as international registrar for magnolia cultivars. Ginnie (Mrs. W.B.) Melnick continues as chairman of the Round Robin correspondents, now including several groups of members avidly reading each other's remarks about Magnolias. Harold Hopkins continues as editor of the AMS Newsletter.

Elected officers will also serve on the board during their periods of office. The other 11 board members elected in St. Louis: Harold Hopkins, Kenneth Durio, Karl Flinck, L. Dean McCoy, Philip Seitner, John M. Fogg, Jr., Walter Flory, James Gossler, Geraldine Hetzer, Tom Dodd III, and Martin F. Stoner.

Phil Savage, Harold Hopkins and Richard Figlar were named as a committee to come up with nominations of members or nonmembers who should be recognized and memorialized in some way by the Society for unusual efforts in behalf of Magnolia promotion or culture.

Saturday morning's program included further quick tours and demonstrations of grafting techniques by Ed Hetzer and Joe McDaniel. At this and at the previous day's afternoon and evening gatherings members displayed flowers they had brought along of several Magnolias not then in flower at St. Louis, including some rare or newly bred specimens. The editor had intended to reprint the Society's new bylaws, including a statement of aims and objectives to which the organization dedicates itself, but was unable to obtain a copy and hopes to include it in a future issue when it's available.

Attendees in St. Louis: Bill Secunda, Dick Figlar, Phil Colson, Harold Hopkins, John English, Martin Stoner, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Durio, Tina Durio, John Smith, John M. Fogg, Jr., Phil Savage, Jr., Ed and Gerry Hetzer, Charles Tubesing, Karl Flinck, Joe and Mary Nell McDaniel, Anita Figlar, Andy Rassmussen, Joe Hickman, John Giordano, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Marek, L. Dean McCoy, Phil Seitner, Dwight R. Crocker, and Stanley Lyss.