

pantheon of the Royal Horticultural Society. It looks bone hardy, though here in our mild climate we cannot tell. It is certainly wind-hardy in a climate where we use *M. kobus* as a windbreak.

To update the observations of previous years on new Magnolias: 'Iolanthe' proves every year more astonishing, and this year the colour seemed a little darker: enormous blooms and continued very rapid treelike growth. Gresham's 'Manchu Fan' continues to delight with its splendid treelike growth and profusion of white flowers. 'Ruby' is by far our best mature red-purple, outclassing both 'Royal Crown' and 'Lennei.' 'Burgundy' again put on a magnificent show (illustrated in a current Japanese magazine) and again gave proof of the exceptionally weather-resistant quality of the blossoms. 'Sundew' continues to deserve all my past praise. The late Mr. Wada's 'Picture Superba' is showing great promise for the size and form of its flowers, but will need another year of trial.

For those who remember the exciting story of the first seed ever known to have been carried on *M. × wieseneri*, Mr. Eisenhut has six seedlings growing. I have three, and news is awaited from Brooklyn as to that garden's success. So the trial of the alleged marriage of *M. hypoleuca* and *M. sieboldii* in Japan many years ago, proceeds, and if anybody claims to have seeded *M. × wieseneri* in the past, let him now come forward or forever hold his peace.

Hellbox

Consisting of items too trivial to mention or too short to be printed.

This column is revived because, as archy the cockroach told his boss Don Marquis, expression is the need of my soul, along with an apple core now and then. It also offers a way to

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explain away those typos and other indiscretions, and serves as a catchall for oddities of one kind or another.

- We want to make a deep bow to Dennis Ledvina for his first-rate handling, processing and redistribution of seeds of Magnolia and other uncommon plants. To Dennis and those who help out when he needs them, and to the many who collect and contribute seeds goes a big share of the credit for furthering the culture of Magnolia everywhere and the aims of this Society. We'll bust it here before we go mushy, but we want to say once more that the Society's Seed Counter and those who make it go are part of the glue that holds us all together. Please think of that when you're admiring the crop on your trees this year.

- Our gratitude to Bill Seidl, not only for helping Dennis Ledvina handle the seeds but also for that fine Magnolia diagram in the previous issue. We inserted it in the middle of the book so it would be easier to make a facsimile copy and to lift it out if necessary. The wraparound, of course, is Bill's suggestions about how to put the diagram to good use.

- Herewith we correct our statement in the previous issue's account of the Rochester meeting to the effect that Dean McCoy, who handed over the Gresham award to Phil Savage, was

chairman of the Awards Committee. The real chairman is Kenneth Durio, who dragooned Dean into conducting the actual ceremony.

- We crave forgiveness for getting the last issue out late. We're loaded with alibis, one being that we were dispossessed and living out of bags for a time after we sold our small Maryland farm during last winter, and couldn't get at the stowed materials needed to put the issue together. We know this doesn't recompense members, who want to know what's been happening to Magnolias lately. Now that we've pulled in our horns and shortened our tether, we hope to devote more time to the cerebral side of Magnolia activity.

- Our Magnolia growing, unfortunately, will have to be put on hold, since the rented quarters we now inhabit are surrounded by a rather small yard occupied chiefly by concrete, one ginkgo, some bulbs and other perennials, a few Japanese azaleas, and a ratty crabapple that makes our hands itch for the chainsaw.

- Some of you know that our president, Phil Savage, was using a chainsaw last fall to rogue out some hybrid Magnolias he'd raised and whose bloom didn't come up to his high standards. He slipped on the ground or in a tree — we don't have the whole story — and although he managed to throw the saw clear, the fall fractured some vertebrae and put him temporarily on hold. He's recovering, and is expected to be on hand for the spring meeting March 30-April 1 at Eugene, Oregon, and we hope acting more his age.

- While forced to sulk in a motel suite late in 1983 between sale of our small farm and the move into our present habitation, we happily accepted an invitation to spend Christmas with some relatives in Boston. On our return we stopped by to see Dick Figlar, former AMS secretary-treasurer and now associate editor of this

publication. Dick lives in a rural area across the Hudson River northwest of New York City, near Nanuet. He is what Magnolia nuts call a Magnolia nut: not only does he have Magnolias for foundation plants and dug in all the way back to the little creek that runs across the back of his property, he also has them flourishing indoors in pots adjacent to several windows. He has mastered the art of coaxing some of the tropic and subtropic species to flower, thus is not only sanguine about New York's growing season, but has adapted to it. For Dick's account of tropical Magnolias in their natural setting see his tale elsewhere in this issue.

- Last fall at a plant society meeting we ran into Bob Adams, a lawyer-gardener and AMS member of Shelbyville, Indiana. Before long we'd forgotten why we came to the meeting and were talking Magnolias. Bob had some ideas for growing Magnolias and was willing to share them, and one result was an article in this issue, which see. We also learned from Bob that he plans to attend the AMS meeting in Eugene, Oregon, this spring, and we hope he can be talked into becoming more active in our affairs.

- In this issue we reprint a piece published elsewhere several years ago by the late Joe McDaniel, our longtime president, on the wide variations in *Magnolia virginiana*, the type of the genus. Many of us didn't see this article when first published, and we regret we don't have the photos that accompanied the original. We do hope this recognition of the sweetbay and its immense adaptability and versatility will stir more members of AMS to add this tree — which ranges from Texas to Massachusetts in one form or another — to their gardens. The sweetbay's flower is the one we chose to adorn our cover logo, and we didn't do it idly. The garden without *M. virginiana* isn't quite complete.