

The Meeting in Oregon

by R. B. Figlar

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Kitchawan Research Station at Ossining, New York, will be the site of the 1985 meeting of the Magnolia Society, the AMS board of directors decided at the 1984 spring meeting March 30 - April 1 at Eugene, Oregon.

At the meeting, Phil Savage declined to serve again as president, and Kenneth Durio, vice president, was named president and Richard B. Figlar vice president. Phil Savage was made an honorary life member in recognition of his contribution to the AMS over the years.

Elected to the board of directors for three-year terms were Robert Adams, Larry Langford, Dennis Ledvina, Mary Nell McDaniel, and Perry Narten. Elected for two-year terms were Carl Amason, Ken Durio, Karl Flinck, Charles Tubesing, and Joe Witt.

Lola Koerting of the Kitchawan Research Station said that in addition to a tour of that station at the April 26-28 meeting, it's likely that visits to Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Skylands Botanic Garden (Ringwood, New Jersey) can be arranged.

After Saturday morning's meeting, we all drove out to Gossler's Nursery in nearby Springfield. Fortunately, there were enough private and rented cars to do this. The Gossler clan, consisting of Jim and Marge, their sons Roger and Jim, and daughter Janet Palanink were magnificent hosts. Together with the P.E.O. Women's Group, the Gosslers served a delicious buffet lunch — and yes, each table was ornamented with a Magnolia bouquet. After lunch we spent the rest of the afternoon touring the Gossler garden and nursery works. Although some Magnolias had passed their peak, there were more than enough still in bloom. A sibling plant to *M. 'Galaxy'* clearly

stole the show here. This National Arboretum hybrid of *M. liliflora*/*M. Sprengeri* 'Diva' called *M. 'Spectrum'* has large (5-inch-long) tepals and well formed red/plum colored blooms which are darker and more uniformly colored than *M. 'Galaxy'* (see covers) and it blooms later than its sister cultivar.

Other Magnolias in bloom at Gosslers included *M. 'Elizabeth'*, *M. 'Galaxy'*, *M. 'Royal Crown'*, *M. × soulangiana* 'Grace McDade' and 'Lennei Alba', the Kosar hybrids and many others.

Later that afternoon we took the car caravan back to the hotel with a stop at Hendrick's Park on the way. Along with many beautiful rhododendrons, *M. 'Picture'* was in full bloom at the park. Unfortunately, *M. campbellii* 'Hendricks' Park' had not a bloom left.

Our Saturday night banquet featured slide presentations by Dick Figlar on the most southern sweetbay and West Virginia native Magnolias; Ken Durio on the Gresham Hybrids and others; Roger Gossler on *M. campbellii* 'Hendrick's Park' (and others that bloomed before the meeting); Grace Conboy on Magnolias and other plants at Chilipo Arboretum; Wally Lane on *M. campbellii*; and Lola Koerting on Hybrids at the BBG Research Station in Kitchawan, New York. Later Chuck Tubesing provided us with a grafting



At the Jane Platt garden.



At Gossler's nursery.

(chip-budding) demonstration and C. Ferris Miller sold several original Korean paintings of Magnolias and donated the proceeds to the society's treasury.

On Sunday we all boarded a charter bus to visit 3 Portland gardens: The Bishop's Close Garden, the Jane Platt Garden, and the Bill Corbin Garden.

Overlooking the Willamette River, The Bishop's Close Garden was created by the late Peter Kerr during the early part of the century. The garden has many Magnolias integrated into its English style design. In the mid-1850s the estate was endowed to the Episcopal church to ensure the garden's perpetuity. Mr. Kerr's two daughters, Mrs. Jane Platt and Lady McDonald, play an active part in the garden's continuing development and maintenance. By the way there was one flower left on the *M. campbellii* 'alba' so many of the Easterners got a chance to see a real *M. campbellii* bloom albeit a tattered one.

Our next stop was the Jane Platt garden. Jane's garden, one of the premier private gardens in the country, is visited frequently by both amateur and professional plant people the world over. She began her challenge in 1941 and as Jane indicates, the garden really got going in the late 1950s.

The Platt garden contains more than 3 dozen Magnolias — a feat in itself for 2½ acres — and all of them have a purpose in this superbly designed garden. Among the Magnolias in bloom included *M. dawsoniana* (only a

few flowers left), *M.* 'Spring Snow', *M.* 'Galaxy', *M.* 'veitchii', and *M.* sprengeri 'Diva'.

The Platts were hosts for a marvelous lunch on their patio — complete with wine, soda and juice, along with delicious box lunches prepared by the Gosslers the night before. We were all impressed by the quality of this garden. By the way, in April of this year Jane Platt was awarded the Mrs. Oakleigh Thorn Medal of the Garden Clubs of America for outstanding achievement in garden design.

Our last stop, just around the corner from the Platt Garden, was the Bill Corbin Garden. This garden featured *M. sargentiana robusta* (still sporting several large flowers), an interesting *M. soulangiana* × *campbellii* hybrid, and many others. Although our visit was cut short here somewhat by showers, it capped off a perfect day and a super 1984 Magnolia Society meeting.

Those attending the Oregon meeting, including spouses and guests: Robert and Donna Adams, Phelan Bright, Irene Burden, Grace Conboy, Kenneth and Belle Durio, Dalton Durio, Dick Figlar, Karl Flinck, Eugene German, Jim and Roger Gossler, J. Bon and Ferry Hartline, Harry Heineman, Joseph Hickman and Ruth Fortman, Donald King, Lola Koerting, William Kosar, Roy Krug, Marguerite Kuypers, Wally Lane, Larry Langford, Dennis Ledvina, L. Dean McCoy, Mary Nell McDaniel, Carl Ferris Miller, Perry Narten, Jess V. Quintana, Phil Savage, Ralph Smith, Raymond Tessmer, and Charles Tubesing.



Luncheon at Jane Platt's.