

showing in the extreme, narrow ends of the frame.

From my viewpoint as editor, horizontal photos are preferred when a photo is submitted for publication in the journal, and for that matter, for publication in any magazine with more than one column on the page, unless the editor requests otherwise. When a photograph is reduced and fitted into a single or a double column, a vertical photo can spoil the makeup and hog valuable space unless it can be cropped enough at top and bottom to form a square or horizontal rectangular shape. If a vertical can't be headed back some, I normally reject it unless it's extremely fetching.

Pitcher leaves (cont'd.)

Pitcher-leaved or calla-leaved *Magnolia grandifloras* are fairly uncommon but apparently not rare. In MAGNOLIA XIX No. 1 (1983), Bon Hartline described the occurrence of such leaves on two *M. grandiflora* plants growing in Missouri and

Arkansas. These had been reported four years earlier by Joe McDaniel.

Bon made a trip and found both trees. He named the Arkansas tree M. 'Harwell' for the nurseryman in Van Buren who cultivated one of the pitcher-leaved specimens. Subsequently, Brian Mulligan of Kirkland, Washington, in MAGNOLIA XIX No. 2 (1983-1984), wrote that Maxwell T. Masters, in a book, "Vegetable Teratology," published in London in 1869, reported that this phenomenon has occurred in several plant genera.

Last spring John D. Freeman, associate professor of botany and curator of the herbarium, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, accompanied me on a hike through the woods in Choctaw County, Alabama, to see some native magnolia stands there. John had read Bon Hartline's account of the pitcher-leaved magnolias and told me that several years ago one of his students brought in a leaf from a pitcher-leaved *M. grandiflora* tree that

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Yellow-flowered form of *M. acuminata* from Japan: **Koban Dori.**

Pink form of *M. denudata*: **Forrest's Pink.**

Magnolia \times loebneri forms: **Ballerina, Spring Snow.**

Japanese-selected forms of *M. stellata*: **Chrysanthemumiflora, M. rosea F.V. 33 petals.**

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was growing in a residential yard at Brewton, in south Alabama. John became excited and resolved to check out the tree during summer vacation. But when he got around to it later, he learned that the woman who owned the house had decided her tree was defective; whereupon, she had it cut down and, to make sure the monstrosity was eradicated forever, had the stump removed too.

In a recent letter, John says:

"The teratological leaf forms described by Masters in 1869 provide only part of the story about leaves such as those on 'Harwell' and on my specimen from Brewton, Alabama. These magnolia leaves start out as if forming a normal blade, but sometimes during development the meristematic tissue layer responsible for apical enlargement separates from that which

forms the lamina. This provides a stem-like extension from the midrib beneath the lower surface. When this extension reforms a marginal meristem, the new margins produced are more or less fused to form the pitcher or calla shape.

"Only in the tropical insectivorous *Nepenthaceae*, relatives of our *Sarracenias*, does one find such a structure as far as I can determine. In *Nepenthes* the blade apex becomes constricted and stem-like for some length before developing the tubular form. Separation of marginal and apical meristems of leaves seems to be exceptionally rare, or at least almost never reported. There is no close relationship between *Magnolia* and *Nepenthes* or any other genus reported to have pitcher leaves."



Mississippi's "champion" *Magnolia grandiflora* (also the state flower) is located in the DeSoto National Forest in George County, not far from the Tom Dodd Nurseries. An older report says it's 104 feet tall, and a newer one 112. Bill Dodd (left photo) and Harold Hopkins weren't equipped to verify the height, but a tape measure showed it to be 16 feet around the trunk at shoulder level.



Magnolia 'Shirley Curry'

by S. Christopher Early

The photograph shows seeds of a cross of *Magnolia grandiflora* × *M. coco*. The tree has been named M. 'Shirley Curry,' after our neighbor, whose tree was used to make the original cross.

It is a vigorous and fully formed tree with medium sized blooms which come over a long period, the largest flush in May. We currently have one bloom, on November 15, 1985. The leaves are shiny, medium sized, with brown indumentum. The seed pods are most attractive and hold their red seeds over a long period. The seed have been sent to Dennis Ledvina.

The tree was not affected by our record cold of -8° F in January 1985 here in Atlanta. The other siblings are very scraggly, shy to bloom, and not very attractive. This supposed hybrid has many good features; however, it is not different enough from the general appearance of *M. grandiflora* to call it a true hybrid. As *M. grandiflora* is a hexaploid, any hybridity might appear in subtle ways.

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