

subsequently demonstrated the quality of flowering and form which I had described. Monrovia named it 'Monland', for Monrovia and Eiland, and would later market it as Timeless Beauty™.

Interestingly, of the first 8 plants that I propagated, the one that I kept for myself has been only spring blooming, although this year one branch had 5 blooms in August. Could it be possible that the recurrent blooming quality of the original tree was from a sport or mutation of only part of the tree, and that my plant was derived from a cutting taken from a non-mutated part of the original tree? Whatever the case, I will be watching my tree closely in the years to come.

'Monland' always sets few seed and when it does, the seeds are sterile, lacking embryos. This year I examined a bloom and found no pollen at all. I then pollinated a bloom with pollen from a neighbor's 'Charles Dickens' and later obtained what appeared to be viable seed.



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## He got it wrong

by Os Blumhardt

I enjoyed seeing Sir Peter Smithers excellent photo of *M. × 'Star Wars'* on the summer 1986 issue of *MAGNOLIA*. However, made an important error in his description of the plant and its history. *Star Wars* is not a back-cross to *M. campbellii*. It is in fact a direct hybrid between *M. liliflora* and *M. campbellii*.

What probably confused Sir Peter was that I said in the information I sent him that I expected to get only muddy purple shades from the first generation and thought I would have to cross back to *campbellii* to get a good pink. For this reason I made a special effort to grow the seedlings on quickly, so that I would be able to make sibling crosses, and back-crosses to *campbellii* as quickly as possible. I got the seedlings to sturdy 4-6 foot shrubs in their first year. At that stage *Star Wars* was the largest plant, and it still is.

The first seedling bloomed at 3 years old, with two blooms of a dullish mauve, which seemed to confirm my fears. I used pollen of *campbellii* on both these blooms and got about 6 seedlings, but these have not yet bloomed. I lost interest in the back-cross when *Star Wars* bloomed in the fourth year in such a good color. Also I have run out of space.

There are about 100 of the original seedlings, and although not all have bloomed, due to lack of space, there is not another with nearly so clear a color, which emphasizes the need to raise a good number of seedlings in all hybridizing. The bloom illustrated has better form than most of those we get. The outer tepals usually remain rolled into tubes which stick out like the spikes of a star. At the