

The San Francisco Meeting

The Magnolia Society celebrated its 25th Anniversary in conjunction with its convention in San Francisco, California, on February 24-26, 1989. The fifty-seven members and guests attending were treated to much good company and excellent bloom. Even the weather cooperated with beautiful, sun filled days and cool clear nights. In the unheated meeting pavilion at the Cathedral Hill Hotel, perhaps the cool clear nights were too much of a good thing.

As pointed out in the garden tour review by Frank Galyon, elsewhere in this issue, the more tender oriental magnolias - *M. campbellii*, *dawsoniana*, *sprengeri*, *sargentiana*, etc - fully displayed their famous colors and forms. This in spite of record cold in the Bay area shortly before our visit. I sometimes wonder if the convention is a collective Jonah bringing nature's worst in turn to convention locale after convention locale. Such perfect weather and bloom as we experienced in Michigan last year certainly belies this suggestion however. Hopefully North Carolina, the site of the 1990 meeting, will not have to gird itself for disaster.

As to the garden tour, I can only second Frank Galyon's observations, particularly in regard to *Magnolia dawsoniana* and *Michelia doltsopa*. I had visited Strybing on one other occasion just before the Eugene/Springfield, Oregon meeting in 1983. *Michelia doltsopa* was blooming as gorgeously then (the last week of March) as it now was in late February. Can its bloom period be that long, or was this just the seasonal variation of a maritime climate? At any rate, it is a

superb plant. The rusty-red felting is of more intense color than any *M. grandiflora* growth bud sheath that I have ever seen. It was interesting that the beautiful specimen at Filoli had very little of this coloring. Many of you may be familiar with Filoli without knowing it as it is the house featured in the opening titles of the TV series "Dynasty". And you thought the Carringtons lived in Colorado!

Prior to the garden tour, the convention opened with a Friday evening membership meeting. At this meeting John Allen Smith, Ken Durio, Jayme Irvin, Ferris Miller, and Harry Heineman, Jr. were elected to the Board of Trustees for a three year term beginning January 1, 1990. It was announced that the Board of Trustees had resolved at the board meeting earlier in the day to extend the convention by a day starting in 1990 with the meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina. This decision will allow more time for all current convention activities for which there never seems to be enough hours in the day. A convention without in the small hours of the morning adjournments will be a novel experience indeed. A lively auction followed, raising always much needed extra revenues for the Society.

Saturday evening the 25th Anniversary celebration began with what is a high point of any meeting, an address by Philip Savage. Phil regaled us with reminiscences of his first tentative steps as a member cum officer of the then American Magnolia Society. You really had to be there.

Following Phil were a number of slide presentations. Joe Hickman

showed slides of Phil Savage's and Cornwall gardens; Kim Kunso made each of us wish to visit Chollipo Arboretum with slides of Ferris Miller's South Korean garden; Frederick Meyer presented a paper on the identification of *Magnolia ashei* as a separate species; Peter del Tredici talked and showed slides on the growth habits and pruning of magnolias; and Howard Oliver shared slides of his garden and of the San Francisco area.

As Dr. Galyon mentioned in his article, many of the convention group visited private gardens on Saturday morning before departing the unique city by the bay. As we followed closely on the heels of Frank's group, I will not repeat the pleasures we found in them. In subsequent days, in company with Phelan Bright and Roger Gossler, I headed in all directions to visit a number of nurseries and private gardens in the Berkeley and the north peninsula area. Most memorable of these was undoubtedly that of Marcia Donahue in Berkeley. For those of you who read *Fine Gardening*, you may remember pictures and Marcia's description of the birth and evolution of this garden in the November/December, 1988 issue. This garden must be visited to be believed - only then can you be sure that you don't believe it at all. It is pure delight. She

even has a magnolia. A visit to Western Hills is a must. Phelan, Roger, and I were like kids in a candy store - and what treats! In all, the flora, native and exotic, of the San Francisco area must be experienced first hand. It is so foreign to those of us familiar with the landscape of the eastern United States as to be another planet. It is wonderful that it is there and that we can, from time to time, visit a small portion of it.

Members and guests attending were Bob and Donna Adams, Ron Allensen, Robert Barnard, Phelan Bright, Glenn Clark, David Clulow, Peter del Tredici, Harry and Irene Elkins, David Ellis, Richard Figlar, John Gallagher, Frank Galyon, Roger Gossler, Bon and Ferry Hartline, Harry Heineman, Joe and Ruth Hickman, Jeanne Holgate, Harold Hopkins, Jayme Irvin, Dennis Jones, August Kehr, Albert Kirwin, Roy and Sarah Klehm, Lola Koerting, Roy Krug, Barry and Marguerite Kuypers, Larry Langford, Dennis Ledvina, Paul and Veronica Lofthouse, Larry Lowman, Wade and Harriet Mahlke, Elizabeth McClintock, Fred Meyer, Ferris Miller, Song Chinsu, Kim Kunso, Yi Kyuhyon, Frank Mossman, Perry Narten, Howard Oliver, Jess Quintana, Phil Savage, John Allen Smith, Evamaria Sperber, Neil Treseder, Brenda Money, Charles Tubesing, and Barry Yinger. ■

New book on magnolias

The Globe Pequot Press will publish a new volume in their series, Classic Garden Plants, Vincent Page editor, titled *Magnolias*. Publication is now set for August. *Magnolias* (144 pages in 8 3/4" x 10 3/4" format) is by James Gardiner with a foreword by Philip Savage, Jr. This is the American edition. A similar volume dealing with magnolias grown in the British Isles will also be published. The American edition will be available at bookstores, or it can be ordered from Globe Pequot Press, P O Box Q, Chester, CT 06412, for \$18.95 plus \$2.00 shipping. Credit card orders (Visa or MC number with expiration date) accepted. Connecticut residents must add the appropriate sales tax.