

Robin Notes

Frank Galyon on *M.* 'Legend': It is a puzzle why *M.* 'Legend' (*M. acuminata* x *M. denudata*) readily sets seeds while most magnolias from that cross are sterile as seed parents. I wonder if 'Legend' resulted from an unreduced pollen grain from *denudata* that fertilized a normally reduced *acuminata* gamete. If this occurred, then the resulting chromosome complement would be allo-octoploid with 6 sets of chromosomes from *denudata* and 2 sets from *acuminata*. One would expect such an octoploid to be fully fertile both ways since it would regularly form gametes with 3 sets of *denudata* chromosomes and one set of *acuminata* chromosomes.

Piet van Veen (in letter to August Kehr) on *M. sinensis* 'Ursula Grau': It flowers 3 weeks ahead of *M. sinensis*, has 17 sepals, and looks like a semi-double camellia. [It] has a strong wonderful smell and an extra flowering in August. Not just a few flowers, but abundant.

and Notes on Robins!

If you want a fresh look at growing magnolias and new insights—something more than you can find in reading the Journal, good as it is—why don't you join a Round Robin? Members of a Robin are in direct communication with the 7 or 8 other members of the Robin to share information and friendship without having to write 7 or 8 letters. You write one letter each time the Robin circulates among all the members, and this happens, at most, twice a year.

Some complain that they don't have the time, but no one is so busy he or she can't write two letters a year about our favorite flowers—magnolias.

And you're not committing yourself for life. If, after trying one or two rounds, you decide it isn't for you, all you have to do is resign. It's as simple as that. Be adventuresome and write Harry Heineman (Robin Chairman) at 673 First Parish Road, Scituate, MA 02066 USA to tell him you want to join a Robin.

—Harry Heineman

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