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. sincensis '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.

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