

2003 Gresham Awards presented to Blumhardt and Jury

Jim Gardiner, Awards and Honors, made the following presentations in New Zealand.

Oswald Blumhardt

The Magnolia Society International presents the D. Todd Gresham Award to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the development, knowledge or promotion of magnolias or who has provided outstanding service.

There has been considerable interest and enthusiasm for growing Magnolias in New Zealand with its maritime climate being ideally suited to their cultivation.

As a keen botanist with a good knowledge of a wide range of native plants, he was given the opportunity of botanizing the rich South East Asian flora, particularly Borneo and Thailand. Although he was searching initially for new *Rhododendron* species, he came into contact with evergreen *Magnolia* and *Michelia* species which stimulated his interest. His extensive knowledge of plants and plant breeding enabled him to pursue distinctive lines, with his first named hybrid, *Magnolia* 'First Flush,' in the early 1980s. Recognizing the respective values of *Magnolia campbellii* and *M. liliiflora* suggested that selection from the original 100 seedlings resulting from the initial cross would be of value. Four years after germination one seedling produced bright pink blooms with only a trace of mauve to be seen. The outer tepals of the flowers remained rolled into tubes which stuck out like the spikes of a star. At the first blooming, most were on the laterals which crisscrossed through the middle of the tree, which suggested the name 'Star Wars.' Now regarded as one of the best magnolias being grown around the world, it has recently been awarded the prestigious Award of Garden Merit by the Royal Horticultural Society.

On behalf of the Magnolia Society International it gives me great pleasure to award the Todd Gresham Award to nurseryman and botanist Oswald Blumhardt for his outstanding contribution towards our knowledge, understanding and promotion of the Genus and in particular the development of new and outstanding cultivars.

Mark Jury

The Magnolia Society International presents the D. Todd Gresham Award to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the development, knowledge or promotion of magnolias or who has provided outstanding service.

There has been considerable interest and enthusiasm for growing Magnolias in New Zealand with its maritime climate being ideally suited to their cultivation.

The name Jury is synonymous with distinctive magnolias the world over. The nursery was established in the early 1950s by Felix Jury. His initial interest was with Camellias and in the 1960s Camellia 'Elsie Jury' won prizes through the Hall of Fame and other American Camellia Society awards.

Attention was turned to Magnolias with a range of plants imported for hybridization, primarily from the UK. *Magnolia campbellii* subsp. *mollicomata* 'Lanarth' was considered to be crucial for development. However, due to a quirk of fate the resultant plant, later christened *Magnolia* 'Mark Jury' turned out to be vital for the success of breeding lines being pursued, shaping the future in terms of flower color, size and early flowering. Using *Magnolia* 'Mark Jury' as a pollen parent, hybrids with *Magnolia* × *soulangeana* 'Lennei' and 'Lennei Alba' and *M. liliiflora* produced a host of world class hybrids including 'Iolanthe,' 'Milky Way' and 'Serene.'

With the import of *Magnolia campbellii* subsp. *mollicomata* 'Lanarth' a fresh hybridization program to provide the distinctive flower color got under way. By crossing with *Magnolia liliiflora* 'Nigra' a new range of hybrids was generated, with 'Vulcan' immediately coming to the fore.

Step forward the next generation of Jury to continue the process of plant introductions. An extensive program using 'Vulcan' both as a seed and pollen parent has started growing results. Launched some 5 years ago 'Black Tulip' is in great demand the world over and its future, as well as being a parent in its own right, looks assured.

On behalf of the Magnolia Society International, it gives me great pleasure to award the Todd Gresham Award to Mark Jury. Like his father before him Mark continues to raise Magnolias of excellence and it is for this outstanding contribution to the future well being of the genus that I should like to present Mark Jury with this award.