I would like to thank Richard Figlar for the two articles printed in the Fall/Winter 2002 issue [of Magnolia] about Magnolia fruits.

As he stated in "Those Amazing Magnolia Fruits," "those who cultivate magnolias are mainly interested in the flowers, not the fruits." While I am not a cultivator, I am a Society member and joined because of my fascination and fondness for those amazing fruits and their seeds.

Unlike most members, I am not a horticulturalist. I am an artist with strong personal interests in botany and entomology. Those two topics are major sources of inspiration and provide the subject matter for my eccentric jewelry and small sculptural objects.

Last year I completed my MFA at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. The focus of my thesis was how and why seeds have come to be one of my recurring motifs.

Being an Ohio native, magnolia trees were new to me. I can still remember the first time I found a M. grandiflora fruit while walking through the sculpture garden on campus. As I wrote in my thesis:

I found one that reminded me of some weird alien creature. It had a stick-like body similar to tan velveteen on the lower half separated from the polka-dotted maroon torso by a highly textural band. Out of its fuzzy yellow conical head popped a bright and leathery smooth red-orange tongue, which I realized was the seed. I began to collect the ones I considered to be ideal specimens, those that weren’t dirty or broken, thus allowing me to relish all the sumptuous details. Some of them had heads that were more developed than my little alien’s. These were much larger and had multiple orifices similar to the little alien mouth. Protruding from a number of the [oddly] shaped mouths were the plump red-orange seed-tongues. I wanted to know why some had bigger heads than others. I longed to learn the biological function behind the funky physiognomy. I needed to know more.

I became obsessed, did some research, answered some of my own questions, and made a couple pieces with the fruit and seed references. A short time later, while attending a workshop at Penland School for
Crafts, I met member Phelan Bright who informed me about the Magnolia Society. I joined, not only because of my appreciation for the plant and all of its parts, but also in hopes of learning more about my special interest.

So, thank you, Richard Figlar, for continuing my education about the fruits and seeds. I especially enjoyed learning the anatomical terms and physiology, as well as the presence of the Fibonacci series, which is used commonly in design, in the phyllotaxis of the carpels.

Fondly,

Kristi Kloss
Columbus OH
ksquaredmetals@yahoo.com

Kristi sent a photograph of a series of rings she designed using seeds as a motif. From left to right, the rings are named: Integrity (acorn), Warmth (cotton), Well-being (rosehip), Admiration (magnolia), Wishes (dandelion), Home (buckeye), Protection (ling), and Dreams (poppy).
McCrackens's Nursery
8025 Fowler Road
Zebulon NC 27597

Wide range of cultivars to choose from
Updated list available fall 2004
International orders welcome

phone: (919) 365-7878
email: pat@mccrackensnursery.com
website: www.mccrackensnursery.com
The Royal Horticultural Society

THE RHODODENDRON,
CAMELLIA, AND MAGNOLIA
GROUP

Subscription is £15 per annum,
which includes both
YEARBOOK AND BULLETIN

Application to
Membership Secretary
Mrs. Miranda Gunn
Ramster,
Petworth Road
Chiddingfold
Surrey GU8 4SN
United Kingdom

LOUISIANA NURSERY
KEN, BELLE, and DALTON DURIO

Your source of Magnolias
and other
Garden Aristocrats
for over 50 years

Catalog—$6.00
(276 pages with
48 color prints)

5853 Highway 182
Opelousas, LA 70570
Telephone (337) 948-3696
Facsimile (337) 942-6404
www.durionursery.com

The Research Foundation of the Magnolia Society

The Magnolia Society Endowment Fund needs your support
Please send your contributions to:
The Research Foundation Fund
518 Parker Street
Gibson TN 38338 USA

Contributions are tax deductible in the United States
We offer over 350 varieties of grafted Magnolias. Among these are some of the latest hybrid Magnolias and selected clones of Magnolia species. Our full list of Magnolias, Camellias and Wisterias is available on request. Plants are dispatched as one- or two-year grafts and in accordance with import regulations.