

Chollipo is at the tip of the Taean peninsula, jutting out in the Yellow Sea. We also own an island of about 12 acres that can be reached on foot at low tide. Our area has the 2nd highest tides in the world, a difference of 30 some feet between low and high. Because of the surrounding ocean we are much warmer than the Seoul area and so far at least have been growing Zone 8 plants with success. Our project is going into the 5th year so you can see we are just beginning. My foster son is now in New Zealand at Duncan and Davies Nursery studying New Zealand flora and plant propagation techniques. He'll be back in March and devote his full time to developing Chollipo. We have about 300 taxa of *Ilex* so far.

I look forward to further correspondence with you and other members of our Society.

Carl Ferris Miller
c/o The Bank of Korea
Seoul, Korea

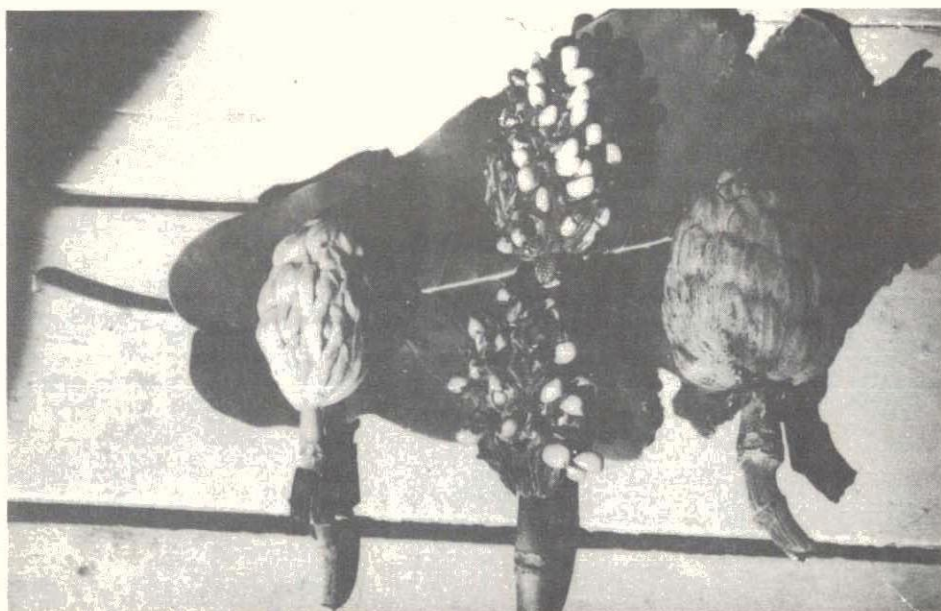
(Excerpt of letter to the editor, 12 February 1977)

We are having a very cold winter — coldest in 50 years. Our lowest at Chollipo was -14 deg. which is not so bad compared with your temperatures but last week when I inspected our plants . . . even *M. campbellii* and various cultivars of it seem to be unharmed.

Ashei Activity

"The Big Leaf Clan" by J.C. McDaniel and Harold C. Hopkins, with color illustrations of *Magnolia macrophylla* from excellent slides by Philip G. Seitner, has brought letters and telephone calls to the authors since it appeared in *American Horticulturist*, December, 1976. We discussed principally *M. macrophylla*, but also its close relatives, the Mexican *M. dealbata*, and the west Florida native, Ashe's magnolia. We probably caused a run on *M. macrophylla* at the new nurseries which have it, and even on some suppliers' stocks of *M. tripetala*, which too frequently has been substituted. *M. macrophylla* this year will be in the seed list of the American Horticultural Society, as well as our own Magnolia Seed Counter. *M. dealbata* now has a toe hold in the U.S., with one plant alive in my greenhouse, and grafts alive (at least before the recent arctic weather) on a *macryphylla* tree in the Gloster (Mississippi) Arboretum of the John James Audubon Foundation.

Ashe's magnolia, now to be called *M. macrophylla* subspecies *ashei* (Weatherby) Spongberg, is one that nurseries could probably sell by the thousands, if they had it. I think none has it available in U.S. at the beginning of 1977, though it has been listed in England by Treseders' and Hillier. (Treseders' has hundreds of plants now.)



Riper fruits (center) are hybrids.

Ashe's magnolia, a generally shrubbier and more precociously maturing plant than typical *M. macrophylla*, is the west Florida representative of the "Big Leaf Clan." It is growing in Florida wild stands between Wakulla and Santa Rosa counties, but has now been cultivated northward into zones 5 and 6, where it appears about as hardy as the more northern typical *M. macrophylla*. I have grown and flowered it at Urbana, Illinois, for several years, but have only one tree on its own roots, and three young grafts on a *macrophylla* branch which flowered for the first time in 1976. Two Florida A.M.S. members have supplied me with dormant *ashei* scionwood this January, which I can share with a few experienced magnolia grafters elsewhere.

Ronald F. (Ron) Miller of Pensacola writes (Jan. 10): "Here's a collection of *ashei* shoots, as you requested. If these aren't cut right, just tell me. A real horticulturist I ain't. My four sources are as follows:

- "(1) A random collection of wild plants from the westernmost station, Weaver Creek bayhead in Santa Rosa County, Florida. (This is on Eglin Military Reservation.)
- (2) Miller No. 1: My most floriferous, widespreading plant. Purple centers.
- (3) Miller No. 2: So far, less floriferous, with stouter, upright limbs. Very pale-centered flowers, not too large.
- (4) Miller No. 3: A very fast growing, quite upright plant. Moderately floriferous with flowers resembling No. 1.

"The last three were all collected as small plants near Knox Hill, Walton County, Florida. [*M. m.* subsp. *ashei* is most abundant there.]

"I'd be delighted to join you in a seed hunt this summer if I'm in the area. We'll have no trouble getting a gunny sack full of fertile cones if we go over into Walton County; *ashei* is nothing so touchy as the *acuminata* alliance when it comes to setting seeds, though my own plants seem to be reluctant to set cones . . . Presumably you are no armchair botanist and will survive a scratch or two from a *Smilax* vine . . ."

Charles E. (Chuck) Salter at Tallahassee, a charter member of the Upsy Daisy Plant Uplift Society there, had previously sent scions collected from two wild trees west of Tallahassee, (1) Ochlocknee River No. 1, and (2) Ochlocknee River No. 2.

My own grafting of *ashei* has been onto branches of *M. macrophylla*, its closest relative. But those who don't have *macrophylla* stocks might try *M. virginiana*, *M. acuminata* or even *M. X soulangiana*, all of which have accepted scions of magnolias in both subgenera. On the basis of my experience so far with *M. macrophylla* buds, I'd avoid the *ashei/tripetala* graft combination.

Miller, whose "The Deciduous Magnolias of West Florida" (*Rhodora* 77: 64-75. 1975) gives an excellent account of the differences and similarities between *ashei* and typical *M. macrophylla*, is in general agreement as to the description of Ashe's magnolia with S.A. Spongberg (*J. Arn. Arb.* 57(3):268. 1976) who published the new combination as a subspecies of *M. macrophylla*. My picture of the fruit aggregates (see Figure) illustrates some of the differences between the two subspecies, and two hybrids between them. While individuals in both subspecies will vary from each other, in such things as flower size, purple markings, and plant habit, it is generally agreed that subspecies *ashei* (endemic in west Florida) has different fruit aggregate shape, and a smaller number of carpels, with smaller seeds. According to Spongberg, its stamens are shorter. Miller says that typical *macrophylla* usually grows into a tree with a single bole, while *ashei* can hardly be presented from coppicing. While L.B. Thien and co-authors (*Taxon* 24:557-568. 1975) report that comparison of *ashei* flower odors show it to be chemically different from *macrophylla* and all other American *Magnolia* species, my own experiments show that it can readily cross with typical *macrophylla* to produce fertile intersubspecific hybrids.

The first Illinois hybrids, flowering in 1975 and 1976, were made with a clone of *ashei* probably from a Walton County Florida seed source, crossed with pollen of a *macrophylla* seedling bought from Tennessee. Two hybrids flowered during their third growing season. The *ashei* x *macrophylla* hybrids appear to inherit the coppicing tendency and early sexual maturity of *ashei*, but their flowers are somewhat larger, with more intense purple markings on inner tepals inherited from the *macrophylla* parent. Flower size is intermediate. Dr. Wesley Whiteside, in whose garden F1 hybrids have flowered, and I made back crosses to both parent subspecies in 1976, and will continue this line of breeding. He also has several seedlings from one of the oldest *ashei* plants in the north, which has grown since the 1930s at Castle Park in Rochester, New York.

While we hope to get more Florida native seed of *M. macrophylla* subsp. *ashei* next July, members who have it flowering in more northern states are also invited to save seed for the Seed Counter or to supply nurseries in their own