

'Magnolias' Nears Publication

by Joseph C. McDaniel

Neil G. Treseder's long-awaited book, "Magnolias," is scheduled for 1978 publication by Faber and Faber (London and Boston). I have been reading a page proof of the text (xxvii + 217 pp.), which together with the 48 color plates will comprise the deluxe volume. The price has not yet been announced, but will probably approach \$100.

Nine paintings of Magnolias by Marjorie Blamey will be reproduced among the 48 color plates. The others will be from photo transparencies, including some taken in the United States. Ms. Blamey did the many line drawings throughout the book.

Unlike some British garden writers whose books are offered on this side of the Atlantic, Mr. Treseder has traveled in our eastern states, visiting me at Urbana, Phil Savage in Michigan, and such centers of Magnolia research and display as the Barnes, the Arnold, and the U.S. National Arboretums. He makes numerous excerpts from articles in the *AMS Newsletter* and others by American authors. The flavor is still English, but the over-all view is not insular.

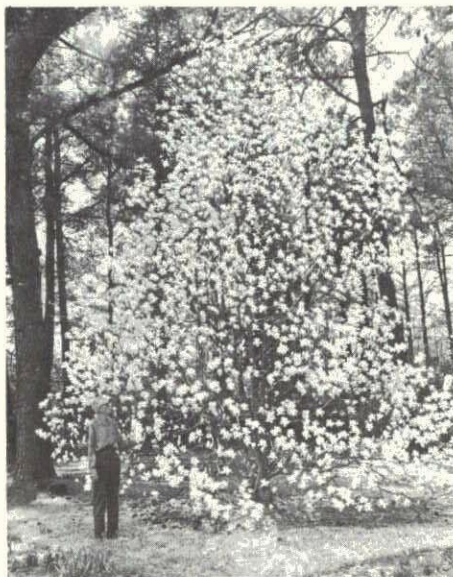
Foreign growers cited include Karl Flinck and Tor Nitzelius of Sweden, K. Wada of Japan, and W.J. Simpson of Australia. The late J.E. Dandy contributed a 10-page revised "Survey of the Genus *Magnolia* Together With *Manglietia* and *Michelia*," preceded by his 2-page key to subgenera and sections of *Magnolia*. The last article, "Cytological Considerations," was written by Dr. John Wilkinson, lately senior lecturer in biological sciences, University of Exeter.

A grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust has helped finance the costly reproduction of color plates. Altogether it promises to be the most complete and authoritative book on magnolias ever published.

The author has updated the names of *Magnolia* species and hybrids since the 1976 publication of Spongberg's "Magnolias Hardy in Temperate North America." He accepts most of the reclassification in the Spongberg work, but along with several

other authorities believes that *M. stellata* should continue to be regarded as a species separate from *M. kobus*. He also questions Spongberg's lumping of varied taxa into *M. salicifolia*.

The book treats all species, Asian or American, of temperate climate adaptation, and numerous hybrids, including some too new to be readily available to gardeners. For cultivars of hybrids still lacking a Latin epithet, Mr. Treseder has headings under the parents' names (in alphabetical order, with sex symbols to indicate the direction of the cross where known). He argues for adoption of grex names for some groups of hybrids, such as the Freeman hybrids (*grandiflora* × *virginiana*) and the *M. heptapeta* × *M. stellata* cultivars released by the U.S. National Arboretum in recent years.



The Magnolia heptapeta (denudata) in J.C. Campbell's front yard in Shreveport, Louisiana, put on such a fine display in the spring that the Shreveport Times ran this photograph with the proud owner standing beside it for scale.

Hellbox

Wherein the editor, erring often and human always, contritely owns to commissions and omissions in past issues, humbly and tardily attempts restitution, begs forgiveness for misleading readers and misprinting authors, shrives himself, delivers homily and opinion and incidental intelligence, and sheds sundry weights from his conscience.

The reforestation by this Newsletter of several counties in northeast Arkansas with sweetbay as shown in the *Magnolia virginiana* distribution map in Vol. XIV No. 1 is a figment or pigment from a printer's nightmare. There is no such blob on the original map and an examination of the offending spot with a magnifying glass shows it to be of different texture than that where the real *M. virginiana* stands up in southern Arkansas and elsewhere. So we can just hope that the good folks along the Strawberry and Black Rivers north of Batesville will accept our apologies and won't cry over spilt ink.

Jack Fogg, founder and first president of our society and first editor of this Newsletter, now International Registrar for new magnolia cultivars, and author of the piece in this issue about *M. grandiflora* 'Praecox Fastigiata,' has been awarded the Silver Medal of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Walter Flory, our vice president, has received medals from the American Amaryllis Society and the Association of Southeastern Biologists for his genetic studies of *Hymenocallis* and other members of the Amaryllis family.

In Wooster, Ohio, the people think so highly of Ollie Diller's leadership since 1956 in Arbor Day tree planting programs, which have given the city a national reputation for beauty, that they have named a city park after him. Ollie's latest is his greatest, to our mind: a project for presenting two-year sweet bay seedlings to all the 5th graders in the Wooster schools with instructions for planting and care. Ollie's lesson on how to turn good intentions into action is a fit example for the rest of us to emulate in our communities. For those of us who fret now

and then about public indifference and lack of knowledge about the beauty and diversity of magnolias, we could do worse than follow Ollie's lead on which generation to go to with plans to publicize the value of magnolias as jewels of gardens, streets, and parks; and there is no better plant for that purpose than the lovely and adaptable *M. virginiana*.

Speaking of public ignorance about magnolias, we have admired for some time a paragraph sent by U.K. member Brian Savage, as penned by a hero of ours we have never met, John Gallagher, Verwood, Dorset, England. Mr. Gallagher wrote the following to the editor of the British Rhododendron & Camellia Group Bulletin:

"Taken on my weekly shopping expedition to Bournemouth, my despondency was swept away by a wonderful tree of *Magnolia campbellii*, subsp. *mollicomata* in full flower behind the super-market. Even Cornwall could not beat this plant (along) with a fine specimen of *M. campbellii*, itself not yet in flower, beside it. Fed up with the doom and gloom on the B.B.C., I rang them up and told them all about these two wonderful plants and suggested that they take their cameras down to photograph such a wonderful sight. The delightful girl in their News Room asked me to explain what a magnolia was and, suitably satisfied, asked would it be all right if they came down next week! I explained to her that if she was prepared to risk a frost — good luck! After she asked me if we were going to have a frost that night, I suggested she ask the Weather Man — but she did not seem too hopeful! Next morning they did photograph the plants and showed the film (which was quite beautiful) with the news the same evening. Mr. Roy Lancaster (of Hilliers Nursery) explained to viewers all about the plants. So many people commented upon the film and little groups gathered around the plants, with such obvious pleasure at one of the beauties of nature they might never even have noticed. It reminded me of a visit to Trewithen when all the magnolias were in full flower and the gardens empty. Mr. Michael Taylor, the head gardener, said, 'I feel that I ought to hire a loud-speaker van and drive around Cornwall shouting, 'Come and see the magnolias.'"" Add to that triple quote Brian's wry comment: "Don't imagine