

Iufer Magnolias Get Reprieve

The rare snail darter fish in Tennessee and a planting of some 1500 magnolia family trees and shrubs in Oregon have little in common except that both have been threatened by Progress and in both cases the alarm has been sounded. The snail darter was saved; now the City of Salem, Oregon, has "finally taken the first step toward preserving as a park the magnificent collection of magnolias grown by Ernest Iufer," according to a report in the September 16, 1978, issue of the *Capital Journal* of that city.

The newspaper article, forwarded to the Society by Ernest and Louise Iufer, said the city council had pledged \$125,000 toward purchase of the Iufer Nursery (3995 12th Street, S.E.), the pledge being contingent on an equal amount being raised from private contributions within a year.

The Iufers, who over 50 years have collected more than 45 varieties of magnolias in the nursery's parklike environs, became concerned two years ago when the city rezoned the area from commercial to multi-family residential. They had dreamed

for years of having the magnolias conserved after they are forced to retire from the nursery business.

Fearing their nursery would be bulldozed over and replaced by "ticky-tacky apartment houses," the Iufers urged local and state government and private groups to help preserve the land. They circulated a petition for that purpose and by fall of 1978 had about 3300 signatures. They pointed out that construction has now crept to the edges of the Iufer property on the north and south.

The Iufers and those supporting them realize it won't be easy to raise \$125,000 within a year but they think the effort is worth it. Each year hundreds of people visit the Iufer gardens to see the magnolias in bloom. The site, the newspaper said, is already complete with stream and stone footbridges.

For many years members of the American Magnolia Society and other magnolia lovers have obtained plants from the Iufers and all wish them success in preserving their magnolia collection as a park.

Watercolor Reproductions of Magnolias

Painted by Kenneth Harms

Magnolia liliflora (13¼" X 19¼")	\$10.00
Magnolia sinensis (13¼" X 19¼")	\$10.00
Magnolia sargentiana robusta (15¼" X 20")	\$15.00
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