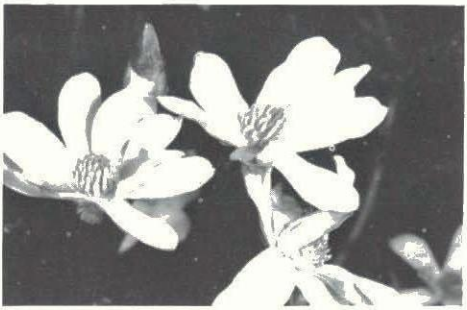

Magnolia kobus. *Photo Gene Eisenbeiss.*

marker with "permanent" ink.

(8) At the end of 10 days, remove the 6-by-6 inch poly-plastic from the bud, but leave the skirt shading. The bud should be healed in 10 days. I believe the removal of the plastic inner covering is critical to success. Magnolia buds are subject to decay, and will do so if kept moist too long. The Benlate will help protect the bud for the first critical period of healing. However, once healing has occurred, the poly-plastic covering is no longer needed, and becomes just a moist chamber for decay organisms. This may be another foolish idea, but I firmly believe many of my earlier failures came from leaving the poly-plastic covering over the bud beyond 10 days.

(9) For summer budding the skirt can be left all winter if fastened securely with wire. In the spring the top of the branch, or trunk of the stock, is cut off about 4 inches above the bud. (For spring budding the branch or trunk is cut off in early summer to encourage current season growth of the bud). The 4-inch stub is cut off later after the bud has become a branch or trunk of its own.

I should close this description of budding with the conventional protection clause: "Any similarity of the above techniques to professional budding methods is purely accidental." However, for me they work, or I should say, play.

M. 'Julian Hill'

by Polly Hill

This splendid native tree, growing in my arboretum at Barnard's Inn Farm, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, has proved its worth on various counts. Let me count the ways.

Hortus Third lists the species as hardy in zones 7-9, but this cultivar is hardy in my location and has never showed problems with wind or weather, even though our temperatures go to zero, or a little below, quite regularly. Heavy storms have broken off the big flowers or fruits on the tips of branches, but have never altered the tree's structure. The shredding of a few top leaves has never been conspicuous nor proved a serious drawback to the tropical appearance that visitors comment on.

Annually, in June and into July, it produces quantities of enormous, almost pure white flowers, poised in a rosette of leaves on the highest branches as well as the lower ones within reach. A few scratches of reddish color can be found down at the base of the inner tepals, but they are hardly noticeable. The fragrance I find as lovely as I do the huge waxen blooms with their 11-inch spread. It's interesting that the flowers grow to nearly the same spectacular size in our northern climate as in the more usual

Opening flower bud of M. macrophylla *'Julian Hill.'*

Julian W. Hill, the author's husband, with "his" magnolia.

southern ranges of its cultivation. But the leaves do not grow to the 3 feet described in Magnolia literature. About 20-24 inches in length and 9-10 inches in breadth is about the ultimate size of mature leaves on this cultivar in our climate.

Magnolia 'Julian Hill' first produced 5 flowers in 1969 when only 9 years from seed. And by 1981 two of its progeny, also growing at Barnard's Inn Farm, had already produced flowers and seeds. M. 'Julian Hill' is an excellent parent.

This tree has two special periods of distinction. The first comes with the flowering in June. Then, about three months later, in September, the branch-ends support large pink-velvet seed pods 4-5 inches in diameter from which emerge glossy peach colored seeds, first peering out of the pod, later dangling on silky threads which shiver in the breeze. At that time of year when most trees show a rather uniform green color these large pink globular fruits are conspicuously ornamental. And still later, as the long auricled leaves drop to the ground, their pale reverse sides turn silver, while the top surfaces become a rich leather tan and the whole leaf curls in a manner to tempt a flower arranger.

A record of the source is always important. My seed, in fact a whole pod, was a gift in 1960 from William Phelps of Guyencourt, Delaware. As a digression, let me add that it came from the same Mr. Phelps' garden where Guy Nearing bred his Guyencourt rhododendrons. We first met Mr. Nearing there because of his extensive knowledge of wild mushrooms. This was before I had any interest in rhododendron breeding.

The naming ceremony (pictured) took place on Julian's birthday, September 4, 1982. Julian likes big white flowers and I thought this would qualify.

In a letter from our Registrar, Jack Fogg, dated September 25, 1982, shortly before he died, he recommended that I register this tree. Jack said there are only six cultivars of *Magnolia macrophylla* in the registration list, so I felt this was a field open to a new registration. Visitors find my tree a most exciting discovery as they tour the grounds.

Seeds from this cultivar are sent to our seed counter, of course. But who would like to propagate this clone vegetatively? I will happily send scions, if fully instructed on timing and technique, to anyone who wants a large, conspicuous, native American tree of proven worth in southern Massachusetts, zone 6. There is no question that it is an "Oh, my!" plant.