

The slide collection

by Larry Langford

At the Lafayette/Opelousas meeting of the Magnolia Society in 1982, it was decided that a photo slide and print library should be established. Shortly thereafter, I volunteered to head this effort. Dick Figlar and Ken Durio got the ball rolling with contributions of a number of slides—Ken's largely of Todd Gresham hybrid magnolias from the Gloster Arboretum.

Progress was exceedingly slow until this past convention at Tarrytown, New York, when Mary Nell McDaniel contributed a number of slides made by Joe McDaniel of *Magnolia acuminata* and *M. grandiflora* specimens. A second large contribution by Dr. John Giordano of slides from Gloster also helped swell my suitcase. Harold Hopkins and Roger Gossler added still more.

At this time the collection numbers about 500 slides, all catalogued on the trusty IBM computer and arranged by that machine in alphabetical order by cultivar within species and within sections as outlined in Neil Treseder's *Magnolias*. Each slide carries a short description giving, where known, the location of the plant and whether the slide is of a bloom, bud, leaf, or other part of the plant. The contributor and the date of contribution is also listed.

My current intention, as numbers increase, is to organize groups of slides covering various fields such as "Gresham Hybrids" or "Section Yulania." This would help to reduce the bulk of the listing for mailing and permit anyone who wishes a list of a specific group to have just that. The computerized list lends itself readily to this type of division.

For the present, the need is to obtain greater participation by members so as to (a) increase the size and range of the collection and (b) make use of the resources now available to them. In time, the collection should become an

excellent resource that our members may call upon to promote magnolias and the goals of this society by showing to groups who may still have much to learn of the wide appeal and versatility of magnolias.

Many of you have indicated you would like to contribute slides and have asked just what I am looking for. The answer is *everything!* Nearly all the more widely grown magnolias are still completely missing from the list. For instance, there are only 13 slides of *M. × soulangiana* depicting only seven cultivars in that large group.

Several sections in the genus are poorly represented — Oyama with only one slide, *Rytidospermum* with six, etc. The slide collection should, over time, become a complete visual checklist of all cultivated or known magnolias. To this end, the Board of Trustees requested at the Tarrytown meeting that all registrations of new cultivars be documented by slides, where possible, or by photographic prints. It's particularly important here that any visual characteristics which make the cultivar unusual be shown. The Board further requested that previous registrations be photographically documented by the person who registered them when possible.

Anyone who desires a copy of the slide list should contact me at the address shown on the inside back cover of this journal. Please enclose \$1.00 to cover postage and printing (my boss is only so lenient).

For the present time, anyone wishing to borrow any of the slides for viewing should contact me about their interests, and I will try to put together a good selection. In the past I have mailed these (insured) and billed the recipient for costs. Until definite rules are established by the Board of Trustees, I will continue to operate in this fashion for the members. You are welcome — and encouraged — to make your own selections from the listing.