

introductions by E.H. Wilson, according to Neil Treseder. In his book "Magnolias," Treseder quotes a letter from E.H. Wilson in which Wilson wrote: "It is the only Magnolia I found in China which I failed to introduce into gardens."

At the present time I am not familiar with the literature on Magnolias. I can only say I know of no other reports of flowering of *M. biondii* outside of the mainland of China, and no illustrations other than the rather poor ones by Pampanini in his description in the New Italian Botanical Journal of April 1910, to which I referred in the preparation of this article.

M. biondii is taxonomically separated from its near relative, *M. salicifolia*, by:

- (1) No anise-scented wood
- (2) Vegetative buds on mature growth densely silky, sericeous
- (3) Densely pubescent peduncles

The Ting introductions meet these taxonomic descriptions for *M. biondii*. The flowers are white with pink shadings on the outside of the tepals near the base. There is a decided lemon fragrance, strong enough to be noticeable to many persons when they first come near the open flowers. The latter measure about 3 1/2 - 3 3/4 inches in diameter, with 6 tepals, the 3 outer tepals being at least 50 percent broader in width than the 3 inner tepals. The inner tepals come to a sharper point than the outer ones. I did not note any false calyx tepals as mentioned in Treseder's book.

Certainly *M. biondii* is unique in flowering earlier than any other member of the Section Buergeria. The buds on the *M. kobus* on which it is grafted are still tight and dormant as I write this. As indicated earlier, this Magnolia bears the Chinese name "Hope of Spring." What else befits a plant that flowers in mid-February along with the small-flowered crocuses that have long been called the harbingers of spring?

William F. Kosar, 72

by G.K. Eisenbeiss
and T.R. Dudley

Noted plant breeder and longtime Magnolia Society member William F. Kosar died of cancer December 1, 1985, in Corvallis, Oregon. He was 72. Bill Kosar, a beloved figure at Magnolia Society meetings held in the Pacific Northwest in recent years, left a legacy of fine cultivars of magnolias and hollies and, from his earlier hybridizing work, lettuce.

During his career as a plant hybridizer he developed, named, and introduced many new cultivars. From his magnolia hybridizing, he introduced the hardy cultivars 'Ricky,' 'Randy,' 'Ann,' 'Judy,' 'Susan,' 'Pinkie,' 'Betty,' and 'Jane,' also known as the 'Eight Little Girls,' whose parents are *Magnolia liliflora* x *M. stellata*. Magnolia cultivars that he bred, introduced after his retirement, include 'Nimbus' (*M. hypoleuca* x *M. virginiana*), and 'Galaxy' and 'Spectrum,' both from hybridizing *M. liliflora* x *M. sprengeri* 'Diva.' Other selected hybrid magnolias that he developed are still in the process of evaluation and introduction at the U.S. National Arboretum, Washington.

He was active in the Magnolia Society and the Holly Society of America for many years and served as trustee and administrative vice president of the latter. In 1984 the Holly Society conferred upon him its most prestigious honor, the C.R. Wolf Award. He received the Evelyn Mooney Purple Ribbon Certificate of the National Council of State Garden Clubs for development of interspecific hollies, and the Jackson Dawson Medal of the Massachusetts Horticulture Society for skill in science and practice in hybridization of hardy woody plants.

During the years 1946 to 1955 Mr. Kosar operated his own nursery and landscape business, which was located in Lanham, Maryland, near Washington, D.C.