

The D. Todd Gresham awards in Great Britain—1987

The Magnolia Society's D. Todd Gresham award began in 1981 as our membership began to grasp the immensity and significance of the work carried out by one of its staunchest members, magnolia breeder Todd Gresham in the last decade of his life, and to realize that his accomplishments had not been adequately recognized. Thus, this award is the Society's only way of publicly honoring individuals whose efforts on behalf of magnolias are clearly extraordinary.

The Magnolia Society's pilgrimage to Great Britain in April of this year gave us an opportunity not previously available to recognize, in person, three individuals in the United Kingdom who have done so much for magnolias at times when it

really mattered. We were glad to honor Elizabeth Johnstone and Julian Williams and their families for their work with magnolias and Neil Treseder for his career as magnolia specialist nurseryman and his authorship of two books that have become, upon publication, the most comprehensive and up-to-date works on magnolias.

The awards, which were presented to each recipient at separate ceremonies, featured a certificate bearing a drawing of the flower of a Gresham hybrid, *M. × 'Sangreal'* by Louise Estes, an artist from Mobile, Alabama. Each certificate was mounted on a finely milled block of the wood of *M. grandiflora*, located and donated to the Society by Phelan Bright of Louisiana.

Notes from the seed counter

by Ray Tessmer

Last year was not a good year for seed collection, and the amount distributed was limited. About 67 orders were filled. This year is looking much better, and your contribution will be greatly appreciated. Many thanks are extended to the following 1986 contributors: Bob Barnard, Eugene Berk, Phelan Bright, Rose Del Grosso, Peter Del Tredici, Ken Durio, Eugene Eisenbeiss, Frank Galyon, Bon Hartline, Harry Heineman, Francis Hendrickson, Mary Louisa Hill, Roger Luce, Tetsuo Magaki, Ferris Miller, Richard Pearson, Phil Savage and John Weagle.

Several problems were encountered in your chairman's first year in the job, and these will be corrected. One shipment to Canada was intercepted by the plant quarantine people. In future, all seed for Canada will be taken to Knoxville where the

necessary inspection and phytosanitary certificate can be obtained. Hopefully, all seed will be distributed earlier, also.

If additional foreign members have seed to contribute, please contact me for the necessary import stickers. I currently have a permit for importing both seed and bare-root, dormant plants. Should you also desire to send a dormant plant to a U.S. member, this can also be handled through me.

Your chairman has attempted, to no avail, to obtain seed from *M. fraseri*, *M. pyramidata*, and *M. m. ashei*. Unfortunately, wild seed either does not set heavily, is bug-infested and nonviable, or is intercepted by squirrels. Seed supplies will therefore have to come from the membership growing these plants. Cross-pollination by hand is recommended in order to provide a sufficient quantity of seed. Protection from birds and squirrels may also be necessary.