

Oak News & Notes

The Newsletter of the International Oak Society, Volume 8, No. 2, July 2004

Concern About Sudden Oak Death Grows

As reported in several issues of this newsletter, and in Proceedings articles from the last two International Oak Society Symposia, Sudden Oak Death or SOD is a new disease affecting some species of oaks in California. The agent responsible for this disease is *Phytophthora ramorum*, a fungus-like water mold that can girdle mature trees and consequently kill them. To date this disease has been reported on four of California's 20 species of native oaks – all members of the black oak (*Quercus agrifolia*, *Q. kelloggii*, *Q. parvula* var. *shrevei*) or intermediate oak (*Q. chrysolepis*) sub-genera. It has also been confirmed on approximately 25 other species of plants, and is thought to infect at least 30 other species (associated species that have not yet been officially confirmed as hosts). Fortunately, however, it does not appear that members of the white oak sub-genera are susceptible.

In the wild, SOD has been found in 13 coastal counties in California – presumably because the disease organism requires the moist, cool conditions found near the ocean. Recently, however, the pathogen has also been identified at a number of nurseries outside the 13-county zone of infestation. This past March, inspectors detected the pathogen on several varieties of Camellia at two ornamental nurseries in Southern California. The Los Angeles County nursery is over 500 acres and is one of the largest sellers of wholesale plants in the country, with six nurseries in

California, Oregon, Ohio, North Carolina, and Georgia. The other San Diego County nursery conducts much of their sales through mail orders. This news has sent shock waves through the nursery and forest industries since it was feared that infected plants had been shipped throughout the United States. Trace-back and trace-forward surveys were therefore conducted to determine where infected plants originated and where they were shipped once they left each of the nurseries. As of early mid-May, the Los Angeles County trace-forward investigations found the following out-of-state nurseries to have infestations: Florida (6); Washington (18); Oregon (9); Georgia (13); Louisiana (6); North Carolina (9); New Mexico (1); Tennessee (2); Texas (6); Colorado (1); Maryland (2); Pennsylvania (1); New Jersey (1); Alabama (3); Arizona (1) and Virginia (1), for a total of 80 nurseries outside of California. In addition, 45 California nurseries have been found to have plants that tested positive.

On April 22, 2004, the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issued an amended emergency order restricting the movement of nursery stock from California nurseries. The amended order replaced an April 9, 2004 Emergency Order and called for nurseries that ship *P. ramorum* hosts or associated plants interstate to be inspected by a regulatory official, sampled, and tested for the disease. Until testing is

complete and the nursery is found to be free from the pathogen, all out-of-state shipments of host nursery stock and associated articles, as well as plants within the same genus as any host or associated article, and any plant located within 10 meters of a host or associated article, must remain on hold. For a complete list of hosts and associated plants, as well as the complete text of the order, go to www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod/index.html. For information on testing protocols, go to www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod/survey.html.

Another troubling development was the recent report that the disease has shown up on a number of important tree species in England, including horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). While over 300 nurseries in England have reported finding infected plants in the last two years, and SOD has been known to have existed in Europe since 1993, until this year all infections were restricted to nursery plants or plants in the immediate vicinity of nurseries and garden centers. While there have only been ten cases where trees have been found to be infected at three sites in Southern England (and another site in the Netherlands), these are the first findings of infections in native or naturalized trees in Europe. Since some of these species are widespread, and beech is an important component of hardwood forests in the UK, losing large num-

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bers of these trees would have serious consequences. As a result, the Forestry Commission conducted a systematic survey in woodlands throughout the United Kingdom. The survey was carried out at 1,217 high-risk sites across England, Scotland, and Wales, as well as at 131 sites in lower-risk areas of England and Scotland. Of the 335 symptomatic plant samples taken, all were negative for *P. ramorum*. Another positive note is that the only native oaks in England, pedunculate oak (*Q. robur*) and sessile oak (*Q. petraea*), are both white oaks, and unlikely to become hosts. For information about *Phytophthora ramorum* in the UK, visit the web site of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA): (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/>) and look under *Phytophthora ramorum*.

To learn more about this disease, including where the pathogen has been found, what species are susceptible, and details of the nursery situation, visit the web site of the California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF): (www.cnr.berkeley.edu/comtf/).

Doug McCreary

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Oak News & Notes

The Newsletter of the International Oak Society
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Letters to the Editor

As one of the newer members of the Society, I would like to thank David Richardson (local member) for encouraging my involvement. Upon receipt of my first newsletter, I felt a need to respond (not surprising to those who know me).

In response to Philippe Gontier, there is an effort to find, recognize, measure, document, and research information on significant trees in the state of Texas. Please visit www.texastreetrails.org to visit an impressive site dedicated to Botanic treasures. The state listing of champion trees is found in the following location: www.txforestservice.tamu.edu and the local champion list is found in the following location: www.tbufc.org. There is also a local (Dallas) group that is involved in not only finding, recognizing, etc., but is actively participates in preserving these treasures. The group can be found in the following location: www.dhtc.org. This website is still under construction.

In response to the "Old Dickory Saved from Destruction" article, I can only express my humble gratitude to Colleen Perilloux Landry and the Live Oak Society, for recognizing the importance of the tree and standing up for what was obviously the right thing to do. As someone who has also suffered the "slings and arrows" that go with "standing up" for trees, I want you to know that you are true heroes!! Short of cloning people like Mrs. Landry, our best hope for the future is educating our children regarding the importance of these treasures. In this regard we should all be involved. Educating the politicians and business executives is much more difficult (and stressful) than educating the children, as I am certain that Mrs. Landry (and the Live Oak Society) can attest!!

Thank you,
Steve Houser



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Open Day in England

The Right Hon. The Lord Heseltine has kindly invited us to visit his arboretum at Thenford, Northampton on Saturday September 11th at 2:30 pm. The Arboretum at Thenford was started about 27 years ago and has a collection of over 3,500 different trees including a large collection of oaks, set in 50 acres of landscape gardens. There are many ornamental features including medieval fish ponds, lakes, a walled garden, and a sculpture garden. Cost of the visit is: International Oak Society Members £5. Non-members £7.

Numbers will be limited. To ensure your place, please complete the form below and return to Jo Earle by August 23rd. She will acknowledge receipt and send directions to you. For security reasons, the Society has to provide a list of the names of everyone who is attending.

There will be a plant exchange. The exchange is a very valuable part of the Society as it enables members to expand their own collections. So please help by bringing your spare plants. Do come and bring a friend. We need to recruit members. Membership forms will be available.

Jo Earle

IOS Open Day Thenford Sept. 11th 04

I/We will be attending and enclose:

£ (£5 per member)

£ (£7 per non-member) (cheques payable to JM Earle)

Name (s): _____

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Book Review:

Pictorial Encyclopedia of Oaks in Japan

By Eike Jablonski (Hoesdorf, Luxemburg), President, International Oak Society

Keiko Tokunaga, a member of the Society, has recently published a wonderful account of Japanese *Fagaceae* entitled *Pictorial Encyclopedia of Oaks in Japan*, covering the genera *Quercus*, *Lithocarpus*, *Castanea*, *Castanopsis* and *Fagus*. Under *Quercus* she has included *Q. robur* and *Q. rubra* which, for Japanese readers, are exotic.

Keiko is also a professional artist who won a gold medal at the 2001 RHS Botanical Art Exhibition in London, where two of her works are now exhibited at the RHS Lindley Library. So the book is wonderfully illustrated by her own watercolour drawings depicting detailed aspects of the subject, such as, habitats of a mature tree, bark, male and female flowers, winter buds, leaves and the variability at different times of the year, beginning with the new flush to autumn colour. Acorns from several sources are shown together, so that the variation is clearly visible, and germinating seedlings are shown under development, mostly at full scale. A map of Japan is provided for each species to show its distribution.

All 21 Japanese native taxa of *Quercus* are illustrated, including the rare ones *Quercus crispula* var. *horikawae* and *Q. miyagii*. Keiko confirms that Japanese oak experts do not always follow the Frodin and Godaert classification: in their "World Checklist of Fagales" *Quercus myrsinifolia* is included in *Quercus glauca*, and *Quercus crispula* is included in *Quercus mongolica*. The Japanese have an old tradition about separating certain species, to show differences in distribution and flower cycle, as well as the different taxonomical features.

The book is, of course, written in Japanese, but with a very welcome summary in English and with scientific names in Latin. In addition to the brief botanical descriptions, there is other interesting information about oaks: did you know, for example, that the Japanese name for *Quercus phillyraeoides* is "Ubamegashi"? "Ubame" means "eyes of an old woman", referring to the young leaf, which is not green but yellow-brown, so this oak is called "The-eyes-of-an-old-woman-oak". For *Quercus dentata*, the Daimyo Oak, the Japanese name is "Kashiwa" which represents the first part of the sentence "Lending money but never borrowing it"; thus, referring to a rich person. *Quercus dentata* is called a lucky tree, which is why it is often seen in home gardens, and at shrines and temples - maybe you have already planted a "Kashiwa" outside your home!

"*Pictorial Encyclopedia of Oaks in Japan*" is a wonderful book and an essential addition, not only to the *Quercus* bookshelf, but also to the libraries of all those who admire botanical art. It can be ordered via email from Kaisei-Sha Publisher, Tokyo; ISBN4-03-971140-8; sales@kaiseisha.co.jp. The price is 4800 Yen (approx. \$46 US) plus postage and packing. It is hardbound, 25x29 cm, and 156 pages. Until August, Oak Society members can order the book directly from Keiko (kacorn@jcom.home.ne.jp) for the discounted price of 3360 Yen (\$32), plus postage and packing. For additional information, see: members.jcom.home.ne.jp/kacorn/index-e.htm.

French Oak Open Days Scheduled

On Friday, September 24 an Oak Open Day Tour will start with a visit to the National Museum Garden in Paris where we will view historic old oaks. Later we will go to Michel Angeard's oak garden at Trélazé near Angers (west France, near Loire valley). On Saturday September 25, we will tour the La Maulévie Arboretum at Angers, and view many old oaks and lots of hybrids, including *Quercus ilex* cultivars. Following this will be a visit to the National Forest of Bercé that contains the tallest *Quercus petraea* in France. On Sunday, September 26, we will visit the National Arboretum of les Barres that houses the national oak collection. For additional information about the Open Days, please contact: Thierry Lamant, Office National des Forêts, Conservatoire Génétique des Arbres Forestiers, Avenue de la Pomme de Pin, BP 20619 Ardon, 45166 Olivet cedex, France; Tel : +33 (0) 238 41 48 06; email:Thierry.Lamant@orleans.inra.fr.

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Book Review:

Native Trees for North American Landscapes

By Doug McCreary, Editor, Oak News & Notes

Like everything else, our appreciation of nature and wild things changes over time. Today, partly because of all of the problems and the unintended consequences associated with the introduction of non-native plants, animals, and other organisms into our landscape, there seems to be an awakening interest in and enthusiasm for things native. This is especially true in the case of trees. Often scorned and unappreciated in the past, and sometimes eliminated to "tame" the wilderness, native trees are now considered emblematic of our natural landscape and symbols of values we hold dear. In the International Oak Society, oaks hold a special place in our hearts and minds, and are appreciated and revered. Among other things, oaks represent strength, longevity, adaptability, and beauty.

This new book by Guy Sternberg and Jim Wilson presents and praises native trees. It not only provides a wealth of practical information and advice about establishing and caring for native trees, it also includes useful, informative, and sometimes touching anecdotes about these plants we sometimes take for granted. But one of the most notable things about this book are the spectacular photographs that accompany it. Some are truly breathtaking and will delight anyone who appreciates nature and the beauty that trees provide.

Nearly 100 individual species are described in this handsome book, and for each we learn about their leaves, their flowers and fruit, where they naturally occur, and what they look like at different times of the year. We also find out

about cultural concerns and how best to care for individual species we may have on our property. Finally, we learn how critical some of them are for wildlife and where the "champions" (the largest of their species) can be found. As such, this book is an invaluable reference and source of information. But it is much more than that because it also celebrates native trees and the important part they play in our experience of life. If you are a tree lover, this book deserves a prominent place on your bookshelf. But don't expect it to stay there long, as you will want to refer to it often, both to obtain information and to rekindle that sense of wonder about the natural world that trees seem particularly adept at stimulating.

Synopsis: The book is a comprehensive cross section of trees native to North America, from the Atlantic to the Rockies and from northern Canada to the Gulf Coast. Following introductory chapters on reading the landscape, getting started, and landscape management around trees, the main section of the book is divided into tree profiles, each including general features, flowers and fruit, native and adaptive range, culture, cultivars, problems, similar species, the best seasonal features, and comments.

In all, more than 650 species and varieties, and more than 500 cultivars, are discussed. 552 pp., 8.5 x 11 inches (280 x 215 cm), 513 color photos, 96 line drawings, 1 map. ISBN: 0-88192-607-8, Price: \$59.95 US, £45.00 Europe. Order

through your book dealer or from Timber Press — US orders may be sent directly to Guy Sternberg (include \$5 shipping extra, cash or check) for personally inscribed copies if desired. To see a description, or to order a copy directly from the publisher, visit the following web site: www.timberpress.com/books/isbn.cfm/0-88192-607-8.

Another Great Oak Lost in 2003

The past two years have been bad ones for monumental oaks in the United States. We already reported in *International Oaks* about the loss of the Wye Oak and the Pemberton Oak, both *Quercus alba*. We since have learned that the US National Champion (and presumably the world's largest) *Quercus velutina* was lost to Hurricane Isabel on 19 September 2003. This tree had been growing in Colonial Beach, Virginia for several centuries, but was split by the storm gales. When last measured in 2001, it had been 332 inches (8.5 m) in circumference, 108 feet (33 m) tall, and 116 feet (35 m) in spread, for a total of 469 points. This ranked it among the largest oaks on earth. Owners Betty and Joe Wilson reportedly plan to have some commemorative pieces carved from the wood so that the great tree will live on in art. Guy Sternberg

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oak tree photographs



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Oak Tour of Turkey and Georgia Set for Fall 2004

Plans are being finalized for an International Oak Society Tour to Turkey and Georgia, which is tentatively scheduled for October 16-28, 2004. The itinerary for this tour is listed below:

October 16 – Saturday: Arrival in Istanbul

October 17 – Sunday: Depart for Erzurum by plane and then to Ispir by mini-bus. Species we will see will include: *Q. infectoria* subsp. *boissieri*, *Q. petraea* subsp. *iberica*, and *Q. macranthera* subsp. *sypirensis*. We will also visit steppes with many woody endemics; Xero-euxinian valleys with shrubs and *Pyrus elaeagnifolia*; a *Pinus sylvestris* forest; *Picea orientalis*; subalpine flora; and Mediterranean flora at lower elevations.

October 18 – Monday: Ispir-Yusufeli-Barhal

October 19 – Tuesday: Barhal-Yusufeli-Barhal; Hatila Forest, Mediterranean flora at lower elevations and Euxinian Forest above, as well as subalpine flora

October 20 – Wednesday: Artvin, visit to Hatila Forest National Park that has a range of trees and shrubs; *Buxus sempervirens* forest; forest on boulders; subalpine shrubs including *Rhododendrons*

October 21 – Thursday: Artvin-Macahel; Untouched temperate rain forests, with *Q. pontica*

October 22 – Friday: Macahel

October 23 – Saturday: Macahel-Batumi Georgia; *Q. imeretina*, *Q. hartwissiana*, *Q. iberica*, *Zelkova carpinifolia*

October 24 – Sunday: Batumi- Kobuletti-Wani-Sacornia-Batumi; Tour by bus will take us 130 km up to 150-m elevation where we will view *Q. dscherochensis*, *Q. woronowii*, *Q. hartwissiana*, *Pinus kochiana*, *Picea orientalis*, and *Ostrya carpinifolia*

October 25 – Monday: Batumi-Keda-Khulo-Batumi 100 km by bus up to 1000-m elevation; Batumi city tour –Mesum-Gonio Castle

October 26 – Tuesday: Batumi-Hopa-Trabzon by bus; Trabzon-Istanbul by airplane

October 27 – Return to Istanbul

October 28 – Depart for homes

This tour is expected to cost approximately 2000 Euros (\$2350 US) for each participant. A more detailed tour description will be developed if there is an indication that at least 15 people will sign up, in which case a guide will make a trial tour over the same route. For additional information, or to confirm your interest in attending, please contact Ms. Funda at the following E-mail address: funda@tema.org.tr and at fax number: 0212-281 10 32.