
Oak News & Notes

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL OAK SOCIETY, VOLUME 9, No. 1, SPRING 2005

Second Sudden Oak Death Science Symposium Held in California

Those of you who have read this newsletter regularly know that a new disease of oaks, dubbed Sudden Oak Death (SOD), has been killing several species of oaks in California, and infecting a wide variety of nursery plants in Europe as well as in North America, for the past several years. In light of the continuing spread of this disease and worldwide concern about its impacts, the Second Sudden Oak Death Research Symposium was recently held in Monterey California. It was designed to bring together the broad array of the scientific community from throughout the world working on *Phytophthora ramorum*, the agent responsible for the phenomenon popularly known as SOD. The goal was to provide a scientific overview on the state of knowledge about the disease in forest, woodland, urban forestry, nurseries and agricultural settings. The Symposium showcased not only completed research studies, but updates on current projects underway and as such, it helped inform managers and policy makers about current management recommendations and the status of ongoing research efforts. It is anticipated that this broad overview will also foster closer cooperation between the various disciplines and geographic areas working on this disease.

In addition to plenary sessions featuring reports of what is currently known about this potentially devastating disease, the three-day symposium also had concurrent sessions on SOD biology, management, genetics and ecology. It was attended by over 300 people from ten countries and included some 80 papers and nearly 50 posters. For those interested, the Proceedings of the Symposium will be published as a USDA Forest Service General Technical Report. Abstracts of all of the papers can be viewed online at <http://nature.berkeley.edu/forestry/sodsymposium/>.

Oldest Tree at Versailles Palace Lost

The oldest tree on the grounds of the Palace of Versailles in France was recently pulled down because it had died following a heatwave. At the time of its demise, the tree's trunk measured 5.5 metres (18 feet) in circumference and the tree was 35 metres (115 feet) tall. It is to be replaced by another of the same species.

The tree died of dehydration and was certified as dead by experts from the National Office of Forests after losing its last leaves to the scorching heat of 2003 that inflicted record temperatures all over France. It was particularly vulnerable to the heat because it had been deprived of surrounding cover in the devastating storms of December 1999. During those storms, 170 km-per-hour winds ripped through the park, uprooting 10,000 trees and peeling away the Château's lead roofing. Roots four times as tall as a man were yanked from the earth, leaving craters the size of small swimming pools. The government brought in army crews from as far away as New Caledonia and French Guiana to help the 50 staff gardeners deal with the devastation.

The tree, often called Marie-Antoinette's Oak, was planted in 1681 by Andre Lenotre, the architect-landscaper who built the Chateau and laid out the park for King Louis XIV, the Sun King. It was named after the ill-fated wife of King Louis XVI because she apparently spent time under the tree enjoying its shade. It is also reported that she and her court of friends and followers used to play blind-man's bluff and other games around the tree. The oak had lived through revolution and war, as well as the 1999 storms that destroyed so many of the other trees in the 1600-ha Versailles Park. The great oak stood midway between the Grand Trianon Palace and the lake, and survived the 1776 revamp of Versailles in which Louis XVI cut down most of the royal trees.

"There is a lot of sadness because our job is to manage the trees and look after their health. I can't help thinking of all the generations of gardeners who watched it grow," said head-gardener Alain Baraton.

Mark Your Calendars for the 2006 Conference

The 2006 International Oak Conference will be held October 29-31 at Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Dallas, Texas. Texas A&M at Dallas is the site of the late Benny J. Simpson's Collection of Texas Native Plants which includes about 16 species of the 45 oaks native to Texas. Of particular interest is the Langtry Red Oak which is found along the Rio Grande River in Texas and is believed to be a cross between *Q. gravesii* and *Q. canbyi* of Mexico. It is one of the larger trees in Benny's collection.

Currently the Center conducts Research for both agriculture and the ornamental nursery industry. A tour of the grounds will be part of the Pre-Conference Tour, along with some other local sites. We hope to visit Peckerwood Gardens and Yucca-do Nursery as part of the Post-Conference Tour. Peckerwood Gardens and Yucca-do have one of the largest oak collections in the state. We will also visit sites in San Antonio and the Texas Hill Country. There may be a trip to sites in far west Texas depending on the interest of the group. Some sites require 6 to 8 hours of hiking, not to mention the 10-hour car or bus rides to get there. If you are interested in such a trip please let me know.

So, get ready to wear your cowboy hats and eat some barbecue. We look forward to hosting the Triennial International Oak Conference and hope many members can attend. As at past conferences there will be a massive seed exchange so that those attending can get acorns of many of the species they have been craving. Further information about the Conference will appear in subsequent issues of this Newsletter. But if you have any questions, contact me at: David.Richardson@UTSouthwestern.edu.

David Richardson, Conference Coordinator.

IOS Points of Contact

Membership Renewals or Applications:

Richard J. Jensen
Department of Biology
Saint Mary's College
Notre Dame, IN 46556 USA
Tel: 574-284-4674
Fax: 574-284-4716
E-mail: rjensen@saintmarys.edu

Submittals for the Newsletter:

Doug McCreary, Chair
Newsletter Editorial Committee
8279 Scott Forbes Road
Browns Valley, CA 95918 USA
Tel: 530-639-8807
Fax: 530-639-2419
E-mail: ddmccreary@ucdavis.edu

Submittals for Journal:

Guy Sternberg, Co-chair
Journal Editorial Committee

Starhill Forest, Route 1, Box 272
Petersburg, IL 62675 USA
Tel: 217-632-3685
e-mail: Strhlfrst@sol.com

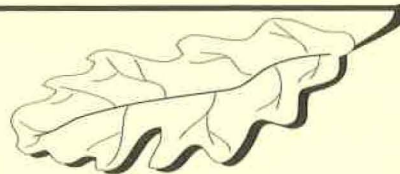
Ron Lance, Co-chair
Chimney Rock Park Nursery
P.O. Box 39
Chimney Rock, NC 28720 USA
Tel: 828-265-4039
Fax: 828-265-9610
E-mail: Ronl@chimneyrockpark.com

European Contact:

Eike Jablonski
No. 6a, L-9456 Hoesdorf
LUXEMBOURG
Tel: 352-836297
Fax: 352-816481
E-mail: eike.jablonski@education.lu

Oak News & Notes
The Newsletter of the International Oak Society
8279 Scott Forbes Road
Browns Valley, CA 95918 USA

President: Eike Jablonski Vice-President: Allen Coombes
Treasurer: William Hess Newsletter Editor: Doug McCreary
Journal Editors: Guy Sternberg and Ron Lance





Eric Stuewe
President

Stuewe and Sons, Inc.
Tree Seedling Nursery Containers
2290 S.E. Kiger Island Dr.
Corvallis, OR 97333-9425 USA
(800) 553-5331
(541) 757-7798
(541) 754-6617 FAX
www.stuewe.com
e-mail: eric@stuewe.com



www.harrietblum.com Covington, Louisiana USA

Now it's official: Oak is national tree of U.S.

As reported in an earlier edition of this Newsletter, the National Arbor Day Foundation conducted an on-line poll for "America's favorite tree" in 2001. The voting was open for a few months, and when it closed, *Quercus* won with about 100,000 out of the roughly 400,000 votes cast. As a result of that poll, Senator Nelson of Nebraska (the home state of the National Arbor Day Foundation) and Representative Goodlatte of Virginia introduced legislation to make that selection official. The effect of the legislation was to change the U.S. Code to give "trees of the genus *Quercus*" the same status as "The Star Spangled Banner" (and "In God We Trust", etc.) as a symbol of the United States. While the hearings for this bill were not as heated as for some legislation, one noteworthy statement was from a Florida representative who described the bill as "very controversial" and wondered whether the palm tree might be getting short shrift in the process. To this comment, the official from Arbor Day Foundation noted that the palm tree came in somewhere below the 10th percentile in the poll. It's also worth noting that one or more species of oak is native to every state in the United States except Alaska, Hawaii and Idaho. The House and Senate versions of the bill passed committee in September, 2004, were folded into the omnibus spending bill, which was approved in late November, and which President Bush signed in mid-December. The oak is also the national tree of Germany and the Republic of Ireland and perhaps other countries.

IN MEMORIAM

Harry J. Banker of New Jersey was a past president of the International Society of Arboriculture. He organized the campaign to make the last Friday in April Arbor Day in the US, now adopted by 23 states, and was a widely admired leader in many aspects of tree care. He had been the prime force behind the movement to nominate the oak as the National Tree of the US. Harry Banker died on 19 October, 2004, and his mission is now complete. The International Oak Society offers our thanks for his efforts and our condolences to his family.

Quercus rubra 'Schrefeldii' — What's behind its name?

Eike Jablonski

Some oaks, species, or cultivars, have names that seem to be a bit of a mystery. One of these is the name of a cultivar of the American Red Oak, *Quercus rubra* 'Schrefeldii'.

Quercus rubra 'Schrefeldii' is a small-to-medium sized tree; the leaves have deeply incised lobes and often these lobes overlap with each other. It was found before 1890 at the Muskau Arboretum in Eastern Germany, as a chance seedling from *Q. rubra*. Dippel (1892) originally described this oak, and said it would be a beautiful addition to the oak collection. The Späth Nursery in Berlin introduced it into cultivation around 1895.

At the time this oak was found, the famous Muskau Arboretum was home to one the most important collections of woody plants worldwide. In this collection some 150 different taxa of oak were growing (Jablonski, 2004). There was also a nursery adjacent to the Arboretum. Gustav Schrefeld was director of the park and head of the nursery and he was known for his knowledge of oaks. Leopold Dippel, a Professor of Botany in Darmstadt, occasionally visited Muskau for his studies and may have known Schrefeld well. So he gave the epithet 'Schrefeldii' to one of the new oak forms he described, in honor of this excellent propagator of woody plants.

There is a connection to the United States as well: In 1886 Alfred Rehder became gardener at the Muskau Arboretum, where his grandfather already was head-gardener under Prince Pückler. Rehder fell in love with Gustav Schrefeld's daughter Anneliese. In 1898, Rehder went to the United States, starting work at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, Massachusetts. During one of his trips back to Germany he married Anneliese Schrefeld in 1906. Together they went back to America. Rehder retired from work at the Arnold Arboretum in 1940 at the age of 77. Interestingly, he neither listed this oak cultivar in his "Manual" (1927) nor in his "Bibliography" (1949), despite his "family connection" with it. Probably it indicates that *Quercus rubra* 'Schrefeldii' was not in cultivation in the United States at that time. Does it grow at the Arnold Arboretum now? Perhaps someone can find out.

Today, I know of only two locations of this rare oak cultivar in Europe, but material from both of them does not match the original description. I would be happy if any of the readers of this newsletter has any information about this oak to share with me.

References:

DIPPEL, L. (1892): Handbuch der Laubholzkunde. Parey; Berlin. Part II: 118.

JABLONSKI, E (2004): European Oak Cultivars, Collections, and Collectors. In: Proceedings of the International Oak Conference, Fall 2003, Winchester, England. International Oaks 15: 103-118.

REHDER, A. (1927): Manual of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs Hardy in North America. New York.

REHDER, A. (1949): Bibliography of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the Cooler Temperate Regions of the Northern Hemisphere. Cambridge, Mass.

INTERNATIONAL OAK SOCIETY

2004 Financial Report

The following is a financial statement for the International Oak Society for the year 2004.

Checking account balance in the First National Bank of the Cumberland, Crossville, TN as of 1 January 2004 --- \$11,355.78.

Add: Income for year	
Category	
Membership	\$ 15,409.50
Contributions	365.00
Journal sales	164.50
Poster sales	75.00
Deposit	9,500.00 ¹
International Oak Conference 2003	16,709.34
Miscellaneous	<u>1,281.75²</u>
Total	\$ 43,505.09

Less: Expenses for the year	
Financial services	\$ 704.54
Postage & misc.	3,087.38
Newsletter	0.00
Journal	10,003.64
Membership directory	1,112.12
Supplies	286.04
Miscellaneous	<u>33,070.00³</u>
Total	\$ 48,263.72



Checking account balance as of 31 December 2004-----\$6,597.15

There are three six-month certificates of deposit in the First National Bank of the Cumberland.

No. 1--\$ 5,000 (10/08/03) + \$ 67.40 (interest) = \$ 5,067.40 (12/31/04)

No. 2--\$ 8,000 (12/04/03) + \$107.85 (interest) = \$ 8,107.85 (12/31/04)

No. 3--\$20,000 (03/09/04) + \$135.10 (interest) = \$20,135.10 (12/31/04)

A money market account for \$13,000 was set up March 17, 2004. \$9,500 has been withdrawn and placed in our checking account. As of 12/31/04, this account has accrued interest of \$23.56 and the total in this account of \$3,523.56.

Total funds held in all accounts--\$43,431.06

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Hess, Treasurer

(Footnotes)

¹ Deposit transfer from Money Market Account

² \$1,216.75 from 2003 closed Michigan account by previous Treasurer and \$65 charge back credit card transaction

³ \$20,000 setup of Certificate of Deposit; \$13,000 setup of Money Market Account; \$65 charge back credit card transaction; and \$5 fee for Illinois Secretary of State filing fee

Attention Oak Society Members!

All International Oak Society memberships expire on December 31 of a given year. Those whose memberships expired at the end of last year were sent renewal notices in October, 2004. The deadline for membership renewal is March 1, 2005. If your membership is not renewed by July 1, 2005, it will be deactivated. Go to the Society web page (<http://www.saintmarys.edu/~rjensen/ios.html>) for enrollment information.

If you have any questions about the status of your membership, please contact Richard Jensen by mail (Department of Biology, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN 46556), email (rjensen@saintmarys.edu), telephone (574-284-4674), or fax (574-284-4716).

Oak Symposium in Scotland

A symposium on Atlantic Oak Woods, organized by the Botanical Society of Scotland, will be held September 14-16, 2005, most likely in Oban, which is located in the North of Scotland. For more information, the excellent web-site is:

www.geos.ed.ac.uk/abs/bss

Some of the topics to be addressed will include:

Definition and Distribution, Genetic History, Cultural History, Present History, Present Structure/Composition (1), Present Structure/Composition (2), Faunal Relationships, Conservation/Management Policy.

The Botanical Society of Scotland is organizing this symposium with the aim of providing a forum in which current knowledge can be collated, with a view to identifying the need for further research and the role of these woods in conservation planning.

International Oak Days September 2005 – Sussex, England

This coming September, the International Oak Society will hold its Oak Days in Sussex, England. This is very fitting because Sussex is the most wooded county in England and contains some superb querceta. Kipling said of oaks, "they are Sussex's weeds".

Day 1 – Friday 2nd September

Arrive – stay at local hotels, hostels, bed and breakfasts, or under canvas, to suit taste and budgets. Nearest airport, London Gatwick; nearest rail station from London, East Grinstead.

Day 2 – Saturday 3rd September

Wakehurst Place - am

Now an outstation of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, this was the home of Gerald Loder (son of Sir Robert of High Beeches) between 1903 to 1936. Great Elizabethan House, with lakes, Wealden valleys, natural rock outcrops. A fine arboretum and the site of the Millennium Seed Bank Project. The collection includes *Q. frainetto*, *Q. glauca*, *x heterophylla*, *Q. imbricaria*, *Q. myrsinifolia*, *Q. petraea* 'Mespilifolia', *Q. phillyreoides*, *Q. trojana*, *Q. velutina* and many recent plantings that include Mexican oaks. Apart from oaks, there is a fascinating collection of *Nothofagus*.

Borde Hill – pm

Private estate planted by Col. Robert Stephenson Clarke between 1893 and 1946. Good collection of oaks including: *Q. acuta*, *Q. acutissima*, *Q. agrifolia*, *Q. castaneifolia*, *Q. coccifera*, *Q. coccinea*, *Q. ellipsoidal*, *Q. faginea*, *Q. floribunda* (dilatata), and many others. This is a great opportunity to see parts of this private estate that visitors to the gardens rarely see.

Evening

Tour dinner – possibly at Ashdown Park (contains a number of fine conifers including a champion *Sequoiadendron giganteum*).

Day 3 – Sunday 4th September

Tour of Sussex - am

An opportunity to see the wooded parts of the Sussex weald, where oaks were once part of the economics of the iron industry. We shall also see some champion trees. Champion trees in Sussex include: **Buxted Park** - Champion *Q. frainetto* 29 x 174 (1994), **Cowdray Park** - Champion *Q. petraea* (Queen Elizabeth Oak 800 years old) **Whiligh, Wadhurst** - Champion *Q. robur* (oldest and largest in Sussex, on a map of 1493).

High beeches - pm

The original home of the Loders. Beautiful woodland garden now owned by the Boscauwen family. The following can be seen *Q. robur*, *Q. ilex*, *Q. pontica*, *Q. frainetto*, *Q. cerris*, *Q. x hipanica*, *Q. macrolepis*, *Q. canariensis*, *Q. agrifolia*, *Q. velutina*, *Q. rubra*, *Q. phellos*, *Q. imbricaria*, *Q. x schochiana*, *Q. kelloggii*, *Q. myrsinifolia*, *Q. oxyodon*, *Q. phillyreoides* and *Q. semecarpifolia*. We shall be made especially welcome here.

Continued on page 6, col. 2



Oak Discussion Group Recently Formed By Matt Strong

I've started an Oak discussion group on the Yahoo! groups website named QuercusTrees. I started the group to create an ongoing discussion concerning anything related to Oaks. Also, with the time gaps in between the International Oaks and Oak News and Notes, I felt that the ongoing discussion and information exchange in the group could be an effective compliment to them by keeping people in constant contact. I have made the group open to anyone, even non-Society members. I believe this open policy will encourage more people to join the group and not intimidate anyone from joining. I do strongly encourage new members of the discussion group to join the Society, if they hadn't already though. I don't want the group to be restrictive in any way, so discussions of any technical level can take place, ranging from highly complex scientific discussions to the most basic of discussions. I hope anyone interested joins the group and feels free to add as little or as much as they want to the discussions and asks any question they have, no matter how technical and complex or basic and obvious they think it is. You can access the group directly at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/QuercusTrees/>

Continued from page 5, col. 2

International Oak Days September 2005 – Sussex, England

Day 4 – Monday 5th September

Sheffield Park – am

Private visit to a beautiful landscaped garden planted by Arthur Soames from 1909. Now owned by the National Trust, the head gardener has generously invited us to come on a private tour on a day when the garden is closed to the general public. A good selection of oaks, but also a wonderful opportunity to take photographs of a very fine collection at a time of the year when some autumn colouring to the maples and Nyssa can be expected.

Local woodland industry - pm

Visits to a tree nursery (to learn about propagation techniques) and see a sawmill working with native timber, including oak.

Plant exchange

Leave for Home

FOR DETAILS, CONTACT:

Barry Denyer-Green
Dunsley South
Park Road
Forest Row
Sussex RH18 5BX
United Kingdom
Tel +44 (0)1342 823094
Email: denyergr@tiscali.co.uk

Zipset

Planting System

The best deep cell
propagation
containers & trays for your
oak seedlings

Call for free samples
800-284-0390
or visit our web site for complete
information:
www.monarchmfg.com

MONARCH
MANUFACTURING, INC.

