

Oak News & Notes

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL OAK SOCIETY, VOLUME 10, NO. 2, WINTER 2007



Those attending the main Dallas post-conference field trip pose under a spreading *Q. fusiformis*. Conference Chairperson David Richardson is at the far right

The 2006 Triennial Conference

As many of you know, the Fifth International Oak Conference was held in Dallas, Texas in October 2006. We kicked off the Conference with a welcoming dinner that included a talk about some of the things going on locally with significant trees in the area. We also held an Awards ceremony in which Awards were handed out to Society members for outstanding work in both planting and preserving oaks in their regions. Recipients included Dan Keiser from Minnesota (the *Oak Man*); Richard Jensen from Indiana; Christian Spinelli of Costa Rica (Special Service Award); and Hayrettin Karaca and Nihat Gokyigit of Turkey (Lifetime Service Awards).

Earlier that day, we toured the collections of oaks at the Texas A&M Center in Dallas, the oaks and other trees at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, and a few of the native oaks at Reverchon Park near downtown Dallas. Along with all the fantastic speakers we had at the conference, we took the time to plant a memorial tree just outside the Auditorium. This oak, a cultivar selection of downey oak from Turkey, was named for the late Aydin Borazan, a member from Turkey. After the General Meeting, all participants took part in the seed exchange. There were plenty of acorns to be found with everyone finding something they could use. Too bad we can't do this every year!

The first of the post-conference Tours took us to Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. I don't think anyone expected to walk away with all kinds of free plants, as well as a fantastic tour led by Dr. Dave Creech. The S.F.A. Mast Arboretum is one of the state's hidden jewels for those who don't know about this fair little garden. It was definitely a real treat for all! The second day of this tour took us to Peckerwood Gardens. We could not have asked for more. They put together a wonderful map of all their

oaks especially for this tour. We were also allowed to pick up any acorns we could find. Many of the oaks there are from the mountains of Mexico and I'm sure it was a first for some folks to see them. If you are ever in Texas, you need to be sure to take the time to visit these wonderful Gardens! On day three, we slowly worked our way back to Dallas and had a chance to see a few large live oaks and one of the largest *Q. sinuata* near Waco.

The last of the Tours was a trip to the Trans-Pecos region of Texas. Our first stop was Monahans State Park where there are a few large sand dunes and home of *Quercus havardii*. It seemed everyone was very interested in all of the flora and fauna of this park. The following day we made it to Big Bend National Park. We toured both the low desert and then headed up to the oak woodlands before night fall. The following day we toured along the river road that separates Texas from Mexico. We toured Sul Ross State University in Alpine and then ventured into the Davis Mountains for a stop at the McDonald Observatory nestled in the oak woodlands. On our final day, we hiked Smith Spring trail and McKittrick Canyon in the Guadalupe Mountain's National Park. Throughout the Conference and Tours, we could not have asked for better weather. I would like to thank everyone who made this Conference such a great success!

—David Richardson

And we would like to thank David for his tireless efforts to make this Conference so enjoyable and educating. He was too modest to mention that he also received a Society award for his service on the Conference and for a new hybrid oak he discovered that is being named for him. Hats off (or in this case cowboy hats off) for a job well done!

—Editor

Sponsoring New Members

Over the past years, many individual International Oak Society members have personally sponsored new members by paying their yearly dues. A procedure has now been enstated whereby the Society as an institution will sponsor new members. Candidates for institutional sponsorship can be proposed by any member by filling out (electronically) a simple application form which may be obtained from Béatrice Chassé (arboretum.pouvouleix@wanadoo.fr). This form will be made available on our web site at some time in the not too distant future.

The objectives are to sponsor new members who: a) live in parts of the world where the International Oak Society is not yet established, or is not sufficiently represented; and/or b) conduct work with oaks that merits encouragement and support.

Our first candidate for membership sponsorship, proposed by Eike Jablonski, is from Poland. Janusz Korpala is a retired professional photographer who has worked in nature conservation and botany and has published in the field (a review of his book, *The Oaks of Rogalin*, was published in *Oak News and Notes* (volume 9, # 2). His contacts with many botanical institutions in his country and in the region will make him an invaluable resource for the Society in developing new membership in Poland and also in organizing future events there.

Individuals wishing to sponsor new members are, of course, still encouraged to do so – as there are, in fact, many other very good reasons for sponsorship than those listed above.

Though this project has come to fruition only now, it is largely through the efforts of members of the past International Oak Society Board that it has come to be. A similar procedure is being developed for awarding research grants.

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: mccreary@nature.berkeley.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: Allen Coombes **Vice-President:** Guy Sternberg
Treasurer: William Hess **Newsletter Editor:** Doug McCreary
Journal Editors: Guy Sternberg and Ron Lance



www.harrietblum.com Covington, Louisiana USA

The Prairie Arts

cards, prints/ custom designs
inspired by native landscapes



P.O. Box 6, Hinsdale, IL 60522 (630) 887-8375 www.ThePrairieArts.com

IOS Election Results

Oregon, December 2006

The election to the Board of Directors for the term 2006-2009 was completed successfully with the return of 182 ballots and the announcement of results during the general membership meeting at the Dallas Conference in October. Following are sketches of the ten Directors selected, along with notes of particular functions each person has engaged to undertake.

Dirk Benoit (Belgium) leaped from furniture making to nursery production, and has the adaptability and accomplishments of both the plant grower and the self-employed Flemish businessman. He serves as a valuable link with the European landscaping plant supply industry.

Beatrice Chasse (France) has chosen to give up professional journalism and "retire" to her arboretum in the Dordogne. She used the opportunity provided by the Texas conference for ambitious travels throughout the US southeast and Texas in order to collect seed for her oak inventory. Beatrice now applies her communications facility to the Secretary's position.

Allen Coombes (United Kingdom), botanist, writer, and early IOS enthusiast, travels widely from his hub at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens to collect and confer, and to lend taxonomic expertise. His worldwide web of connections gives the Society both exposure and opportunities, and he now volunteers to apply his guiding hand as the President of the International Oak Society.

Jo Earle (United Kingdom) brings to the Board a long history of extravagant service to her community, along with the experience of farm and forest management that she shares with her family on their property in Dorset. For the Society, Jo has assembled an illustrious International Tours Committee, promising irresistible adventures.

Bill Hess (USA), happily resident in rural Tennessee, a region rich in oaks, has created and passed on a wealth of knowledge about North American oaks throughout his career as botanist, taxonomist, herbarium curator, researcher, writer, and teacher. His skills as Treasurer are a welcome addition to the IOS talent fund.

Eike Jablonski (Luxembourg), educator and veteran of grassroots reforestation projects in exotic locales, can be seen traveling about with backpack full of towering oak seedlings, and marking special occasions and people with unusual specimen gifts. He is a conduit and contact for woody plant collectors throughout Europe, and functions as IOS promotion principal.

Dick Jensen (USA) is a university professor and a contributor to vital taxonomic reference works without which we would possibly all be adrift. He also deciphers everyone's handwriting, in his capacity as Membership Chair, and maintains the membership directory and the Society's website.

Ron Lance (USA), residing in North Carolina, a region of recent rapid population growth, daily sees the impact of development on oak forests. His professional duties provide opportunity for educating the general public as well as specialists on the importance of oak habitat protection, and he expands this outreach through his function as Co-Editor of the IOS Journal.

Doug McCreary (USA), motor biker and Anglophile, lives and works in the blue oak woodlands surrounding California's central valley, where he applies his research to the advancement of oak regeneration technology and to public awareness and appreciation of oaks. He continues to enjoy his long service as the Newsletter Editor.

Guy Sternberg (USA), founding Society member and junk food aficionado, yearly assembles vast quantities of acorns for distribution to collectors throughout the world. At his home in Illinois he has developed a private arboretum specializing in oaks, and he maintains a growing photo library and writes on native tree culture. Guy is also Co-Editor of the IOS Journal.

The elections committee and the Board members join me in thanking all individuals who enlist for service to our organization. The Society continues to thrive because we are an association of participants!

—Diane Gardner, IOS Election Committee Chairperson

Oak Collecting Tour to Japan, October 2007

A wonderful opportunity has arisen to visit most of the native Japanese oak species in the wild this autumn, due to personal contacts with Professor Hideaki Obah, retired from Tokyo University, who recently revised the *Quercus* section of the Flora of Japan. He has very kindly consented to arrange a fifteen-day tour (5th October 2007 to 20th October) for us to five different regions of the Japanese archipelago to see the finest examples of oaks in the various climatic zones, ranging from temperate to subtropical evergreen forests. The timing of the tour during the month of October has been carefully chosen on the advice of Professor Obah to maximise acorn collecting opportunities throughout the trip. The tour should also coincide with the peak of autumn colour in the temperate forests.

The International Oak Society is most fortunate that, thanks to the personal contacts of Professor Obah, travel and accommodation will be arranged privately in order to make this exceptional tour more easily affordable. Thus Forestry Experimental Station or Temple lodging will often be used, which will bring us the added

Continued on page 6, col. 1

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.

Continued from page 3, col. 3

Oak Collecting Tour to Japan, October 2007

benefit of being able to see and experience traditional Japan. It is often part of this tradition to share dormitories.

The tour will start and end at Tokyo's Narita International Airport. We will first travel together by Shinkansen (the Japanese high speed train) to Sendai, two hours north of Tokyo on the main island of Honshu, where we will spend the first two days botanising in Northern Honshu's temperate forests that include *Quercus serrata*, *Q. crispula* and *Q. dentata*. Because of the distribution of oaks in Japan and the length of the archipelago, we must take internal flights between our various destinations. The next area we visit will be in the Nagoya region in central Honshu, with varied oak species which will take 2 days to explore. From there we move to the Kochi region on Shikoku Island, taking three days to see a number of different evergreen oaks, and also *Lithocarpus* and *Castanopsis*. We then fly to the Miyazaki region on the southern main island of Kyushu, where we will spend three days, seeing, in addition to most of Japan's evergreen oaks, the rare *Quercus hondae* in its natural environment. Finally we are very fortunate to fly to Amami-Oshima, one of the sub-tropical Ryukyu Islands in the Philippine Sea at 28 degrees North latitude, where we will see *Quercus miyagii* and *Q. glauca* var. *amamiana*. From there we return to Narita in the evening to stay at a Narita Airport Hotel for flight departures to our homes the next day.

The tour has already been officially announced at the recent Oak Conference in Texas. As a result I am holding a priority list of 23 people who have expressed their interest, but it is unlikely that all these members will definitely book the tour. The maxi-

Continued on page 6, col. 2

Database of Oaks Collected

Many members of the *International Oak Society*, private or institutional, have planted an oak collection or are affiliated to an institutional oak collection. An oak collection must not be solemnly specialized, but should contain at least a certain number of plants of the genus *Quercus*. For a future publication, the *International Oak Society* asks for your help in building up a database of oak collections. If you have an oak collection in your backyard, or if you are in charge of one or know of any oak collection not affiliated with a Society member, please let us know. If you could send the location of the collection, the owner, and the oak species included in the collection, that would be extremely useful. Your complete address and E-mail address is also needed. Send this to Eike Jablonski, LTA, Dept. Horticole; B.P. 76. L-9001 Ettelbruck; or email it to: eike.jablonski@education.lu. Also please contact Eike if you have questions or need additional information.



Stuewe and Sons, Inc.
Tree Seedling Nursery Containers

Eric Stuewe
President

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

Tour of Buckingham Palace Planned

There will be a one day tour on Tuesday September 18th 2007 to the Chelsea Physic Gardens in the morning and to the Gardens at Buckingham Palace, led by Mark Lane (IOS member) in the afternoon. Details of the tour and an application form are shown below:

Time of Tour: 10.00-15.00 hrs.

Cost £12. (Do not send money now). This includes entrance and guided tour, but does not include lunch or travel between Chelsea Physic and Buckingham Palace (one stop on the Underground). The Tour is limited to 30 Members.

Send applications to Jo Earle, Frankham Farm, Ryde Intrinseca, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 6JT, United Kingdom; or email them to: Frankham@gotadls.co.uk.

Please apply by May 1st. This allows time for overseas members to apply as the tour may be oversubscribed. I will let you know by mid-May whether you have a place, give more details, and request payment.

Name _____
Address _____
Zip/Post Code _____
Email _____

Notes on *Quercus coccinea* Muenchh and *Quercus Ellipsoidalis* Hill

Richard Jensen, Department of Biology, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN 4565 USA

In the last issue of *International Oaks*, Meyers (2006) provided interesting insights into the occurrence and characteristics of *Q. ellipsoidalis* (Hill's oak) in Ontario, Canada. Despite his valuable observations about the habitats in which Hill's oak occurs, and his summary comments on why Hill's oak occurs on kettle bog rims, there are some important problems with his short paper.

In his most important misstep, Meyers (2006), commenting on *Q. coccinea* (scarlet oak), writes "He [referring to himself] has studied this species throughout its North American range for forty-seven years.... To put an old plagiarized myth to rest, in all those years, the author has seen only one individual with apical acorn rings." This statement can only be taken as a great insult to those plant taxonomists who have, over the past 60+ years, described the apical rings commonly found on the nuts of scarlet oak. What Miller and those who read his statement need to realize is that reference to plagiarism, regardless of the claimant's intent, is not to be taken lightly. Plagiarism is one of the most serious charges that can be made against scientists and scholars. I speak for myself (e.g., Jensen, 1997) and others (e.g., Harlow, 1959 [a Dover reprint of his 1946 *Fruit Key to Northeastern Trees*]; Radford et al., 1964; Weishaupt, 1968; Wharton and Barbour, 1973; Little, 1980; Miller and Lamb, 1985; Preston, 1989; Swink, 1990) when I say, with complete confidence, that the presence of apical rings just below the apex of the nut is a common characteristic of scarlet oak throughout its range. I have personally seen this character in trees from 17 of the 28 states in the eastern U.S. in which scarlet oak is known to occur (ranging from east [Massachusetts] to west [Missouri] and north [Wisconsin] to south [Tennessee]). In addition, I have examined herbarium specimens from throughout the range of scarlet oak, and few, if any, failed to show this character, which is so well known that Harlow (1959; page 39) and Miller and Lamb (1985; page 61) included a photograph of the nut apex among their illustrations of scarlet oak. There is no hint of plagiarism in this context.

Meyers' (2006) second misstep is to suggest that there are no discussions or comparisons of fresh leaves in the literature: "The author has never seen a comparison of living leaves, useful for field work, in contrast to using dried specimens, where many features are lost." Such a statement could only be made by someone who has failed to consult the literature on oaks. For example, Otis (1931), Miller and Lamb (1985), Jensen (1997), and Stein et al. (2003) describe the living colors of the leaves of these two species as well as others.

Finally, Meyers (2006) indicates that his observations constitute the first report of scarlet oak from Canada. This is an important observation to those of us interested in oaks and their distributions, and is not surprising, given that scarlet oak is known from localities in eastern Michigan and western New York that are adjacent to Ontario. Meyers (2006), however, appears unaware that scarlet oak was reported from Ontario in the 1880's

and more recently, as noted by Scoggan (1978). Interestingly, Fox and Soper (1954; as cited in Scoggan) were unable to verify its occurrence. Because of these concerns, I feel this new report for scarlet oak in Canada should be documented further before it is officially accepted. It is incumbent on Meyers to collect specimens and deposit these in appropriate herbaria (e.g., the University of Western Ontario [UWO], the Royal Ontario Museum [TRT], the University of Guelph [OAC]) to document his report and to allow others to evaluate the taxonomic status of the specimens on which the report is based.

Literature Cited

- Harlow, W. H. 1959. *Fruit Key and Twig Key to Trees and Shrubs*. Dover Publications, Inc. New York.
- Jensen, R. J. 1997. *Quercus* Linnaeus subsection *Lobatae*. **The Flora of North America**, vol. 3. Oxford University Press. Oxford, United Kingdom.
- Little, E. L. 1980. **The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees**. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. New York.
- Meyers, G. A. 2006. *Quercus ellipsoidalis* E. J. Hill on Rims of Kettle Bogs in Ontario. **International Oaks** 17: 49-54.
- Miller, H. A., and S. H. Lamb. 1985. **Oaks of North America**. Naturegraph Publishers, Inc. Happy Camp, California.
- Otis, C. H. 1931. **Michigan Trees** (9th edition). The Regents of the University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- Preston, R. J. 1989. **North American Trees** (4th ed.). Iowa State University Press. Ames, Iowa.
- Radford, A. E., H. E. Ahles and C. R. Bell. 1964. **Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas**. The University of North Carolina Press. Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- Scoggan, H. J. 1978. **The Flora of Canada, part 3**. National Museums of Canada. Ottawa, Canada.
- Stein, J., D. Binion and R. Acciavatti. 2003. **Field Guide to Native Oak Species of Eastern North America**. United States Department of Agriculture: FHTET-2003-1. Morgantown, West Virginia.
- Swink, F. 1990. **The Key. Plantsman's Publications**. Flossmoor, Illinois.
- Weishaupt, C. G. 1968. **Vascular Plants of Ohio**. W. C. Brown. Dubuque, Iowa.
- Wharton, W. E. and R. W. Barbour. 1973. **Trees & Shrubs of Kentucky**. The University Press of Kentucky. Lexington, Kentucky.



Continued from page 4, col. 1

Oak Collecting Tour to Japan, October 2007

number of participants is limited to 25. **Firm bookings will be taken from the receipt of this newsletter until March 31st, 2007. To participate in this tour, evidence of travel insurance to cover the trip will be required.** I would also like to maintain a list of those willing to 'stand by' if space becomes available at a later date. The final itinerary of the tour will be sent to everyone who is firmly booked after March 31st.

It is important to know that we will have to meet at noon (12:00) on the 5th October at the Narita Airport. The exact meeting point will be announced with the final itinerary. For most people this will require a departure from their home on the 4th. Costs of the tour within Japan will be approximately as set out below. For the international flights to and from Japan, I am willing to negotiate for a group rate for the **European** participants to travel from one European airport to Tokyo Narita and back, which would be substantially cheaper than individual tickets, but this requires a minimum of ten on one flight and also a prepayment. Please indicate on your booking form if this is of interest to you, and I will inform you of the details.

Visas are not generally required for travel to Japan, but participants will be expected to confirm this for their own situation.
--Anke Mattern, Germany--

Approximate cost of the tour within Japan (not including flights to and from Japan):

Prices given are in Japanese Yen. Conversions quoted here into other currencies are approximate, and will vary along with exchange rates between now and the tour.

1. **Rail and Air Transport** (including five inland flights and Shinkansen train): 142,790 Yen per person. (US\$ 1,190, UK£ 610, Euro 921).

2. **Road transport and overnight stays for the 15 days:**
180,000 Yen per person (US\$ 1,500, UK£ 765, Euro 1,155).
3. **Food (breakfast, lunch and dinner) for the 15 days:**
139,500 Yen per person (US\$ 1,163, UK£ 600, Euro 900)
4. **Overnight stay in Narita on return (1 night):**
12,000 Yen per person (US\$ 100, UK£ 51, Euro 77).
5. **There will also be a fixed cost of 500,000 Yen** to cover such expenses as Professor Ohba's travels with us, which will be divided between the participants. With 25 participants this will be: 20,000 Yen per person (US\$ 166, UK£ 85, Euro 129).

Total approximate cost per person: 494,290 Yen (US\$ 4,119, UK£ 2,112, Euro 3,189). This sum of money in Japanese Yen must be brought individually by each participant to Japan. If group airline travel is arranged from a European airport to and from Japan, prepayment of this item will be requested accordingly.

Taxa we expect to see during the tour: *Quercus serrata*, *Q. crispula* (*Q. mongolica* var. *crispula*), *Q. dentata*, *Q. phillyr-eoides*, *Q. gilva*, *Q. acuta*, *Q. glauca*, *Q. myrsinifolia*, *Q. salicina*, *Q. sessilifolia*, *Q. acutissima*, *Q. variabilis*, *Q. hondae*, *Q. miya-*



Registration for Oak Collecting Tour to Japan

Last name: _____ First name: _____
 Institution: _____
 Address: _____

 Country: _____
 Date of Birth: _____ Telephone: _____
 Fax: _____ Email: _____

I am interested in a group airline booking from Europe: YES/NO

Please send this Registration form before March 31st by email, fax or post to:
 Anke Mattern, Langestrasse 43, 31595 Steyerberg, Germany.
 Tel: +49 5764 941162
 Fax: +49 5764 2610
 Email: anke.mattern@debitel.net

