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# Oak News & Notes

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL OAK SOCIETY, VOLUME 11, No. 2, SUMMER 2007

## A New Service for Quercophiles! The Oak Names Database Is Now Searchable Online

<http://www.oaknames.org>

Those of you who came to the Winchester Conference in 2003 may recall that I presented a paper on oak cultivar name registration (see *International Oaks*, issue # 15, pages 126-139 (2004)). In that paper I outlined the building of a comprehensive Register of all oak cultivar names known to exist. I am pleased to announce that after many months (even years) of hard work, the on-line Checklist of names is now available for consultation.

A Checklist is a forerunner to a published Register and is presented for consultation and feed-back before a "final" Register is produced so that errors and omissions may be rectified. I hope that anyone who finds errors or omissions or who can provide any extra information will e-mail me via the feed-back link so that the database may be continually corrected or updated.

In 1998 the International Oak Society was appointed International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) by the overseeing body, the Commission for Nomenclature and Cultivar Registration of the International Society for Horticultural Science. Further information on registering cultivars, including a downloadable registration form, may be found through the Society's own web pages.

The naming of cultivars is governed by the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* (ICNCP). A cultivar name becomes fixed upon its establishment in a printed publication which, from 1 January 1959, has to be dated at least to the year. The date of a name is the publication date of that work.

Once it can be demonstrated that a cultivar name has been properly published, one then has to check to see that it is properly established. This means that the words of its epithet (the letters and spaces that appear between single quotation marks) have to be in conformity with the rules of the ICNCP and that after 1 January 1959, have to be in a language other than Latin and be accompanied by a

description. Many cultivar names pre-date the 1959 Rule and their epithets might appear in Latin form. This is quite acceptable if the names were originally published in conformity with the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (ICBN) and to use the terminology of that code, are "validly published".

One of the prime tasks of an International Cultivar Registrar is to prove that a cultivar name has been properly established. This can be painstaking work since, in the first instance, every name seen has to be checked for the earliest known place of publication. Since the regulation of botanical nomenclature starts from 1 May 1753 (the date of Linnaeus's *Species Plantarum* which started the whole system of binomial nomenclature), this means that, in theory, every work published since then has to be checked for new names.

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For the database, I have systematically checked the past and present literature as far as one can and am fairly confident that the resulting listings are pretty complete. A comprehensive bibliography is provided on the website. Of the 2000+ entries in the database, I have found over 730 names to which people have assigned cultivar status in the past. About 300 of those names are now either (a) synonymized with another name or (b) are not recognized as being true cultivars but represent wild occurring variants of a species or (c) are not names but trademarks or (d) are not considered (by me) to have been properly published or established. About 430 cultivar names are

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## Arboretum in France May Be Lost

Long-time International Oak Society member (and past Vice President of the Society) Thierry Lamant has recently reported that an arboretum in the south of France (Arborétum du Centre Héliomarin) in Vallauris, created on the initiative of Monsieur Yves Chalamel on land owned by the National Health System, is scheduled to be closed. For unexplained – though probably real estate – reasons, M. Chalamel no longer has access to water, the green houses or his computer. Organised by Thierry, an effort is underway to save this arboretum. To this end Thierry requests that letters (not emails) protesting this course of action be sent to him at the address below:

Thierry Lamant  
35 route de Châteauneuf  
45510 Tigry  
FRANCE

The letter itself should be addressed to:

Monsieur Le Moine  
Directeur du Centre Héliomarin  
F-06220 Vallauris



www.harrietblum.com Covington, Louisiana USA

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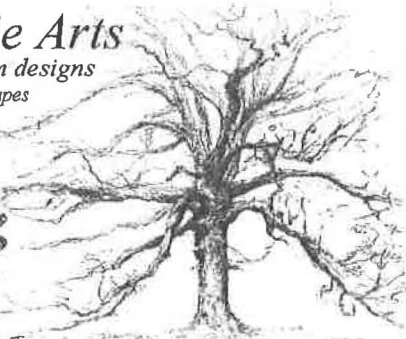
### Oak News & Notes

The Newsletter of the International Oak Society  
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**President:** Allen Coombes **Vice-President:** Guy Sternberg  
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## Oak Names Database

currently accepted as registered in this database.

There is more to this database than just a listing of cultivar names. Since so many nurseries, especially in the USA, market oaks under a common name rather than their scientific name, I have compiled a comprehensive listing of over 260 common names in the English language and cross-referenced these to their scientific names.

Again, since a number of cultivars are marketed under the wrong scientific name, I have compiled a comprehensive list of correct Latin names (with their spellings verified) for all species and hybrid species of oak. Any synonyms that I have seen being used in the horticultural literature since the 1950s are cross-referenced to the currently accepted names. Please note that the overall synonymy is not supposed to be complete and it does not include long-forgotten or obscure names (which may, and probably should, stay forgotten or obscure!).

The database is very easy to search and there are a number of ways of finding a full name report on a name. Please be sure to read the introductory pages to the database before using it! Over the next few months, further information will be included within the data. If you have any ideas for improving the webpages or for adding extra information, please get in touch with me.

Piers Trehane  
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## Japanese Tour Update

At present we have only a limited number of participants for the Japanese tour planned for 5<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

To remind you, this fifteen day tour to five different regions of Japan is an absolutely unique opportunity to see 14 species and one variety of *Quercus*, one of *Lithocarpus*, and two of *Castanopsis*, and is timed to maximise acorn-collecting possibilities. It is to be accompanied by Professor Hideaki Ohba, who revised the *Quercus* section, among others, of the Flora of Japan. The tour involves a feat of logistics only possible due to the unequalled knowledge and the contacts of Professor Ohba.



The basic cost of the tour is just under 500,000 Japanese Yen (excluding, of course, your flight to Japan), but in addition to this Professor Ohba's subsistence and travel costs, also 500,000 Yen, have to be divided equally between the participants and added to this basic cost. At the moment the European currencies have never been stronger against the Yen, at around 240 Yen to £1, and over 160 Yen to the Euro, so the timing could not be better.

Professor Ohba, although officially retired from Tokyo University, is a figure of international stature, and is therefore still extremely busy with international conferences and with work on his publications, etc. He has already generously provided time to produce the itinerary for the tour, and will, of course, have to find the time to accompany it also. In order to make these demands on his time worthwhile, and in order to reduce the charge per head to cover Professor Ohba's costs, we would like to see more participants, so PLEASE think again if you can fit this tour into your calendar and budget, and if so, contact Anke Mattern as soon as possible at [anke.mattern@debitel.net](mailto:anke.mattern@debitel.net) or on German telephone -- number +49 (0)1717 386500.

*President's note:* I am always wary when I hear the word 'unique', however, in this case there is no doubt that it is used correctly. The opportunity to see so much of Japan, and its oaks, under the guidance of such a renowned expert is a one-off, and most unlikely to be repeated. Anke has done a great job in putting this together so please support the tour. There are still oaks in Japan waiting to be introduced to cultivation. Unfortunately I am unable to go myself but I wish all participants a very successful trip.

Allen Coombes



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## Oak Photos Needed

The Proceedings issue of the journal from the 2006 Texas Conference has been completed and is being mailed as we go to press with this issue of *Oak News & Notes*. It will feature a gallery of photos from the Conference and associated trips in lieu of our usual species profile. However, the gallery in the next issue will feature *Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea*, so please contact Guy Sternberg if you would like to offer any photos or artwork for those species. Review past issues to see the scope of illustrations used to define the species at all ages and in various ways. And we would like to hear from members about which species they would like to see in future galleries. Please communicate all suggestions or offers to Guy at:

[Guy@StarhillForest.com](mailto:Guy@StarhillForest.com)



## New Membership Brochure Enclosed

You will notice that the inside page of this Newsletter is the "new and improved" membership brochure reflecting, among other things, the new membership fee structure. We know that there are many people out there who would love to become members of our Society, but may not know we exist. So if you are going to any meetings or events, please feel free to duplicate this and hand it out. Or if you know of individuals who may like to join, give them a copy. Thanks for you help!



## Arboretum Manager Sought

Starhill Forest Arboretum in central Illinois holds one of the most extensive *Quercus* collections in North America. The Arboretum is in transition to a public (college) facility and ready to add a manager / future director. This will be a career position for the right person and will require versatile skills and interests. Please inquire via [www.StarhillForest.com](http://www.StarhillForest.com)

## Conference 2009

I am pleased to announce that the 6<sup>th</sup> International Oak Conference will be held in the historic city of Puebla, Mexico, October 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009. While it is still a long way off and the exact venue has not been decided, I hope you will put these dates in your diary. We aim to have all the usual exciting events we have all come to expect from the conferences such as pre- and post-conference tours, seed exchange, and of course some special social activities! Further announcements will be made in the Newsletter and the website. Watch this space.

As usual the conference will rely partly on sponsorship to make it a success. This will be used for such purposes as subsidizing the tours and funding some participants from developing countries. Anyone interested in assisting with this should contact me.

Dr Maricela Rodriguez-Coombes  
Conference Chair  
Email: [macosta@siu.buap.mx](mailto:macosta@siu.buap.mx)



## Reminder: Don't Miss the Tour in England

As noted in the last issue of *Oak News and Notes*, there will be a tour of Chelsea Physic Garden and Buckingham Palace Gardens in London on Tuesday 18th September 2007. There are still a few openings. If anyone is interested, please contact Rhiannon Cory at [rhiannoncory@lycos.co.uk](mailto:rhiannoncory@lycos.co.uk) as soon as possible to discuss. The cost is £12 per person (lunch and travel not included).



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# The International Oak Society

To further the study, sustainable management, preservation, appreciation and dissemination of knowledge to the public about oaks (genus *Quercus*) and their ecosystems.

## Membership and Benefits

The International Oak Society is a nonprofit organization and a tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization. It is dedicated to encouraging the study and cultivation of the true oaks (genus *Quercus*). Begun in 1985 as an informal seed exchange, this society has grown into a worldwide group with broad membership representation. A membership directory is published every third year along with a between-conference-years' update, enabling members to contact each other for information exchange. Other benefits include receipt of the journal, *International Oaks*, and the newsletter, *Oak News & Notes*. Announcements of additional books and other oak-related items are occasionally offered to members, as available. Members are entitled to one vote in the membership meetings.

## Membership Categories

General individual membership is available at various term levels. Family membership allows two members of a family to receive all membership benefits, but only one set of publications are provided per household. Life membership furnishes full membership benefits for the lifetime of the designated recipient.

## Publications

*International Oaks*, the journal of the International Oak Society, is published annually and contains current research on the genus *Quercus* or its ecology. It also may contain articles on significant oak specimens, natural history, or other oak-related topics. Back issues are available for purchase. The newsletter *Oak News & Notes* is published twice per year, to update members on Society business, activities, seed exchanges, and conferences.

## Goals of the International Oak Society

- ◆ To advance the state of scientific knowledge regarding oaks and their ecology.
- ◆ To locate, preserve, and catalog significant oak-related literature.
- ◆ To facilitate the location and distribution of living material for propagation of oaks.
- ◆ To foster communication among members via a journal, newsletter, other mailings, website, and periodic meetings.
- ◆ To promote the study, development, naming, and distribution of superior cultivars and cultivar groups for horticultural use, and the study of oaks for the production of timbers, mast, and other useful products.
- ◆ To sponsor the preservation, display, and interpretation of oak-related traditions, art, and lore; and encourage development and curation of appropriate and useful collections of oak-related pieces, such as wood samples, taxonomic specimens, or historic oak artifacts.
- ◆ To develop the capability and to serve as a registrar authority for oak cultivars, historic and champion oak trees, ancient oak groves, unusual or rare oak specimens, or objects of significance involving oaks.
- ◆ To provide information regarding the use, preservations, and appreciation of oaks and successful techniques for oak culture and management.
- ◆ To encourage, recognize, and honor outstanding achievements by individuals and organizations, members and non-members, in advancing these goals of the International Oak Society.



## International Oak Society

### Membership Enrollment Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
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I would like to join at the following term:

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Two years	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45	\$55
Three years	<input type="checkbox"/> \$65	\$80
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**Oak:**  
Fagaceae (Beech family)  
Genus *Quercus*

Oaks range in habit from large trees to the groundcover shrubs. Although all oak species bear the familiar acorn fruits, they display great variation in appearance and ecology. This genus includes some of the finest hardwood timber trees in the world. Many species also make beautiful specimens for parks and gardens, and all offer excellent wildlife benefits. Some oaks reach noble proportions where soils and climate permit, and can live for several centuries, therefore, oaks are richly associated with historical lore. There are hundreds of species of oaks in temperate regions of the Northern



Hemisphere and in the tropics of Central American and Asia, with a few species extending into northern Africa and northern South America. Many oaks from milder climates are evergreen, including some of those found in tropical areas, in western and southeastern North America, and in the Mediterranean region of southern Europe. Oaks hybridize freely, and identifying their progeny can be difficult. Hybrids with improved characteristics are being evaluated for their potential in forestry, wildlife management, and landscape use.

*Learn more about this fascinating group of trees and shrubs by joining the International Oak Society.*



## Society Activities

### Triennial Conference

Every three years a conference and general membership meeting are held. The venues are international, as are the speakers and participants and often comprise colleges, botanical gardens and arboreta. A mixture of botanical, historical and cultural presentations by distinguished speakers, together with local tours, enable members to share an unforgettable oak experience. A strictly controlled seed exchange highlights the conference events and all presentations are subsequently published in a special proceedings issue of the journal. An event not to be missed!

### Oak Open Days/Field Tours

Every year, in different countries, the Open Oak Day's Committee invites members to come and explore the *Quercus* wonders of different parts of the world. Be it in Turkey, France, Mexico or the United States, these wonderful events provide participants with a golden opportunity for botanical exploration and sharing. A unique experience, indeed!

### Website

The International Oak Society website provides information on meetings, tours, Society news, publications, as well as oak-affiliated links.

<http://www.saintmarys.edu/~rjensen/ios.html>



*It all begins with a seed*

# International Oak Society

# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION