



Oak News & Notes

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL OAK SOCIETY, VOLUME 14, No. 2, SUMMER 2010

The Oaks of l'Arboretum des Grandes Bruyères



Brigitte and Bernard de la Rochefoucauld.

Oaks are the main genus in the Orléans forest. The inventory of French national forests shows that 62% of the trees in 140,000 acres of forest are oaks. The Orléans Forest is located 50 miles south of Paris, a short distance north of the Loire River.

Many local names refer to oaks: White Oak, Two-Legs Oak, Wolf Oak, Five Oaks, Bottle Oak, etc... Oaks are an important part of the daily life of our people. Two species dominate oak populations in France: *Quercus petraea* (Matt.) Liebl. and *Q. robur* L.. There is no doubt that our home was the right place to start an oak collection!

In 1968 we built our house on a tract of family land in the forest. We decided to create a landscaped arboretum and botanical conservatory. We were members of the French Association of Botanical Parks, of the International Dendrological Society, of the Royal Horticultural Society, of the French National Horticultural Society and, of course, the International Oak Society!

In the 1980's, Allen Coombes, a young English botanist working for Hillier's Gardens, suggested that we start an oak collection in this area, which he thought would be favorable to most of the oak species of the world. A young French botanist, Thierry Lamant, helped us get specimens from original locations in China, Mexico, and other places.

Thus we began to invest in this fascinating and beautiful genus. Our forest land is sandy and acid, with an average rain fall of 600 mm (23.6") per year. The summers can be hot and dry, the winters cold and wet. It took us time to figure out the right planting procedures and the needs of plants that came

to us from around the world. It was a difficult task, but we learned a lot! The oaks do remarkably well in our poor soil. Some evergreen Chinese oaks need a more robust food supply, of course, but with our compost and a lot of leaf mulch, they grow sufficiently well. Today our collection has 370 specimens from 128 taxa.

We installed a powerful watering system covering 18 acres, with 30 different sectors. The first inventory of the arboretum was made by John David Tobe in the summer 1992, and since then I have continued that task myself. To date we have labeled 6,500 woody plants, with continuous monitoring.

The Mexican oaks are of astonishingly rapid growth. *Q. canbyi* seedlings planted out in 1998 is now more than 10 feet tall, as is the California oak *Q. agrifolia*! One of my favorite American oaks is *Q. incana*, with its beautiful foliage from spring to autumn.

The most difficult oak to acquire was certainly *Q. baronii*. After several tries at grafting it, without success, I finally got one from seed! It is slow growing, however. As a matter of fact, Chinese evergreen oaks are very slow growing in this area.



Many events and activities are organised at les Grandes Bruyères every year. Here, Bernard explains how to plant a tree correctly.

The Oaks of l'Arboretum des Grandes Bruyères



Stéphane Brame (founding member of the IOS) ; Thierry Lamant (ex-IOS Board member and Conference Chair for 2012) and Béatrice Chassé (IOS President), enraptured as is usually the case, by Brigitte de la Rochefoucauld telling a remarkable story about a tree.

My favorite from East Asia - Japan and China - is *Q. serrata*, with beautiful color in both spring and autumn.

On one of his visits in the 1990's, Allen Coombes suggested that we put our sponsors to the test. At Hillier Arboretum people can plant a tree, usually an oak, by making a designated donation

to the arboretum. We decided to give that idea a try, and it was an unexpected success! Over 200 donors sent us €150 each for a tree. So our collection was launched, and today, only a few years later, the oaks of l'Arboretum des Grandes Bruyères are thriving.

Brigitte de La Rochefoucauld

My impressions of a visit to l'Arboretum des Grandes Bruyères, and timely advice from Brigitte

L'Arboretum des Grandes Bruyères is without doubt one of the most extraordinary private botanic gardens in France. Exceptional in the combination they have achieved of 'beautiful garden' and 'botanically interesting', it is a model for many of us, and will be, I am sure, for generations to come.

I remember the first time I had the honour of being taken around to visit it by Brigitte : near the end of the visit, after having said something very silly like, "Oh dear ! My arboretum looks like a zoo for trees, it will never look like this!", Brigitte looked at me very severely and said, "No, no, no – you don't visit somebody else's garden to then copy it, nor should you even want to! We are not the same people, we don't have the same land. You'll be fine...you'll see!"

Hopefully, a visit to Les Grandes Bruyères will be on our agenda for the 2012 Triennial Conference – and if you should come to France for any other reason, it is a must.

Béatrice Chassé
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From the Editor

Welcome to the editor's corner! Quite a few items of possible interest to members of the IOS have accumulated since the last number. I will do my best to bring the details of these matters to your attention here.

Contribute to your newsletter

To begin with, I would like to appeal again to the membership to submit news items of possible interest to our general membership. Most people are interested in what other people are doing, but it is not easy to find out what other members are doing if they do not report on things going on in their "neck of the woods." I therefore repeat my request that you provide me with news of your oak activities, or those of people you know, or short sketches of oak species, or problems with propagating or growing oaks, etc. I will then bring these to the general readership either in this column or in the main body of *Oak News and Notes*. Do not hesitate to submit items: all are welcome, and may be written in English or some other standard language from around the world. Keep your items succinct but long enough to be informative. The more the merrier, as the old saying has it!

I would also like to remind members that *Oak News and Notes* can be received by electronic transmission. We would like as many members as possible to choose this option, because you can enjoy color pictures not possible in the paper edition, but also because we save a good deal of money when we don't have to mail the newsletter. The money we save can be devoted to making the newsletter better! If you are not signed up to receive the newsletter electronically, please request that by emailing me at tayloralro@comcast.net or Rudy Light at rudyios@pacific.net.

Q. robur × *cerris* hybrids

Also in the nature of a reminder, Mr. Kevin McGinn, a graduate student at the University of Reading, in the UK, is beginning a genetic study of possible hybrids between *Quercus robur* L. and *Q. cerris* L.. Mr. McGinn would like to hear from anyone who knows of, or

suspects, a hybrid between these two species. You can read a short summary of the study in the NEWS section of our website. Contact him at either k.j.mcginin@student.reading.ac.uk or kevinmcginin@hotmail.co.uk.

Join an oak discussion group

Many of you are probably already aware that Yahoo has a number of special discussion groups. Several of these are devoted to trees, and there is one for oaks: quercustrees@yahoo.com. You have to be a member of the group in order to receive mailings and offer replies. Most of the members are North Americans, but anyone with an e-mail address can join the group. Google the URL given above, and scroll to the bottom, where there is a link for enrolling in the group. Discussion among the members is lively, and covers a wide range of issues related to oaks: taxonomy, genetics, identification of particular individuals, propagation, care, sources for seed and seedlings - in short, anything you care to bring up will be answered by some or several members of the group. Come on, jump in! It will keep you abreast of lots of things going on around the oak world!

International Oaks

A number of back issues of *International Oaks* are available and the complete list and order form can be printed out from our website in the PUBLICATIONS section. (Members received this list as an insert with the latest issue of *International Oaks*.) If you can not access this list on the website, send a request to receive this document to either Rudy Light at (rudyios@pacific.net) or Béatrice Chassé. Her e-mail address is (arboretum.pouyouleix@wanadoo.fr).

By now you should have received the latest issue of *International Oaks*. This was a particularly challenging issue due to the fact that many of the articles had to be translated to English, and to the short time frame in which it all had to be accomplished. Hearty congratulations are due to Guy Sternberg and the editorial committee for a job well done. If you have not yet received your copy, contact Guy at sthlfrst@aol.com or Rudy at Rudyios@pacific.net.

Starhill Forest's future secured

Guy is also in the news because his 48-acre arboretum, Starhill Forest, in Menard County, Illinois, has officially become a part of Illinois College, the oldest college in the state (founded in 1829). Guy and his wife Edie deserve the thanks of all of the citizens of Illinois and all tree lovers everywhere for making this bequest. The creation of an arboretum is the work of a lifetime, and few enterprises can enrich a society as much as a beautiful private garden given in perpetuity to the public. Guy and Edie and the new arboretum manager, Alana Mc Kean, would welcome your visit or your enquiries about the arboretum and its NAPCC (North American Plant Collections Consortium) oak collection. The arboretum web site can be found at www.starhillforest.com. Visit this site in order to view pictures of this unique arboretum and to learn a great deal more about it, its history and mission, and for information about how to become a friend and supporter of the arboretum.

The IOS goes to Turkey

President Béatrice Chassé recently (June 1-3) represented our society at a conference in Isparta, Turkey, entitled *The Oak: Ecology, History, Management and Planning*, organized by the Süleyman Demirel Üniversitesi (Turkey) and Linköping University (Sweden) and sponsored in part by the IOS. Her main purpose in attending this meeting was to bring our society to the attention of the conference goers, mostly from Turkey and a number of European countries. She reports that there was great interest in the IOS, and she is confident that we will gain new members from among the people she met.

California Oak Foundation

A sister organization which IOS members should know about is the California Oak Foundation (COF), founded in 1988 as a non-profit educational organization committed to preserving the state's oak forest ecosystem and its rural landscapes, curbing urban sprawl, and creating livable cities. The COF works with landowners, ranchers, farmers, developers, conservation organizations, estate planners, and others to mitigate loss of biodiversity and to protect critical

watersheds and wildlife habitat in California. They are ready to offer technical assistance on local oak conservation issues, and they are constantly involved in public information programs (ecological and urban planning issues) as well as education of children and youth. This worthy organization can be contacted at oakstaff@californiaoaks.org; they publish a monthly California Oak Report, which can be obtained electronically at oakstaff@californiaoaks.org.

Conditions vary from place to place, but an organization of this kind should be in every region where habitat loss is a serious problem. IOS members in particular areas would do well to emulate the COF, even if they do not establish a formal analog to it.

Oaks of the Interior of Western North America

Finally, a topic of great personal interest to me is oak exploration and introduction from the more temperate parts of the arid American Southwest, mainly Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico. (See page 6 for a note on an oak population of SW Utah.) An interesting article on this subject appears in the April, 2010 number of the *American Nurseryman*. "Propagating the oaks of the interior West," by Scott Skoggerboe of the Fort Collins (CO) Wholesale Nursery. In the article, Scott describes his and my efforts to identify and propagate interesting cultivars of the native white oaks of our region, both through acorn collection and grafting. The article can be read on line. Go to their website www.amerinnursery.com and log in. (If you have difficulty signing up, go to loginhelp@amerinnursery.com.) The article describes the challenges of the soils and climates of the Interior West, how these challenges are being met, and what are the wild oak resources found in the region. There are more than you might think...

Oak Open Days

It is not necessary to be a member of the IOS in order to attend events designated as "Oak Open Days."

Allan Taylor

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In the Spotlight: Ryan Russell from Missouri, USA

Who are the members of the International Oak Society? From what walks – and interests – of life do they come? From Japan to Minnesota, from Devon to Spain, from Holland, Australia and Argentina, we hope to be able to present at least some of them in Oak News & Notes. If you know someone whom you would like to see “In the Spotlight” please let us know!

“I first heard about the IOS a few years ago from a friend and it seemed like some really cool secret club, but I figured that you had to be one of the cool kids to join. I learned last year that all you had to do was pay a club fee so I was in. It seemed like a good way to meet other people that had my affliction and a possible way to bolster my own collection as well as share what I have.”

Thus we learn three important things from Ryan Russell, arborist at the University of Missouri: 1) the IOS is a very cool club; 2) it is not hard to join this club; and, 3) that all of the members share the affliction of being infatuated with the genus *Quercus*.



Ryan Russell, arborist at the University of Missouri.

In addition to his responsibilities as arborist at the University of Missouri, Ryan maintains a private collection spreading across two acres – in the middle of an 80-acre farm. “I do my own propagation which is either seed propagation or by way of grafting,” explains Ryan. “My friend Mark Coggeshall (also an IOS member) taught



The arborist at work: the sad task of removing a mature tree from a building site.

me the fundamentals of grafting and I have been doing it ever since. My current *Quercus* seedling bed is 16 feet x 4 feet and is chock full of acorns ranging from *Q. aliena* to *Q. fusiformis*. If my current grafting and seedling numbers are good this year I can expect to double my collection. Currently I have about 30 taxa, botanic and cultivars.”

As arborist at the University of Missouri, he is involved with oaks on nearly a daily basis from the planting process all the way through to the care and maintenance of mature trees which can include climbing, pruning, fertilizing and removal of hazardous individuals. Ryan also spends a good deal of time working on Planting Oaks: A Species List*. This is one of the tools

on the IOS website which needs dedicated volunteers like Ryan in order to be completed. Intended to provide horticultural information, the skeleton of this tool is a list of accepted oak names for which detailed information about ecological requirements, leaf shape and colour, general habit, *etc...* must now be encoded. Ryan has embarked upon this major task (starting with hybrids) – and so there can be no doubt that he is indeed smitten with oaks.

“My dad taught me the differences between the native oaks that were growing near our home when we cut firewood in the winter when I was a kid, and I have had a passing interest in them ever since. It is just within the last few years though that I have become obsessed with *Quercus*.”

His favorite species? “*Quercus alba*, because I think it is one of the most majestic species in old age and it is probably the first tree that I identified as an oak in childhood.” Favourite acorn? “I like them all as long as they are viable!”

Ryan is interested in selecting and naming new oak cultivars, and he has a couple in mind. One is a *Quercus alba* growing on his property, the other, a *Quercus palustris* that he has found. He hopes to name these trees for his grandparents, who passed on to him their passion for trees.

When I asked him if he could tell me a “tree” story about himself that is either funny or interesting or revealing or embarrassing or sad or whatever... But whatever it is it must help us – perhaps not understand, for that would be too difficult – but to see a glimpse of who he is, this is what he told me:



Ryan with his sons, Taran (left) and Ryder (right) standing beside the ancient white oak (*Q. alba*) known as the Gudgel Oak, near Petersburg, Illinois. For an account of the saga of this venerable tree, see *International Oaks* 17:84 fol.

“Last year in February I had shoulder surgery (a baseball injury, not a tree injury). I was supposed to be laid up for three to six months recovering. The year before I had participated in the climbing and restoration efforts on the national co-champion *Q. macrocarpa*. Well, it was scion wood collecting season in February and so I wanted to inspect this tree for any callous wood from the previous season’s dead wood-ing. The problem was that I only had one good arm. In my lust to get into the tree again I devised a system using a single-rope ascent technique. What is noteworthy about this technique is that since I never climb in this fashion, I had to steal ascenders from my buddies’ gear bags and put them to use! All went well and I got my wood.”

**You must be a paid member of the IOS and have created an account on the website to access this tool. If you are a member of the IOS and have not yet created an account on the website or have had difficulty doing this please contact Béatrice Chassé (whose e-mail is below) or Charles Snyers d’Attenhoven charles.snyers@gmail.com for assistance.*

Béatrice Chassé
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The Advantage of Grafting

On the Pre-Conference tour of last year’s 6th Triennial Conference of the IOS in Puebla, Mexico, we were all enchanted by the beauty of *Quercus urbanii* Trel. (See the short article on this oak species by Béatrice Chassé in the last number of *Oak News and Notes*.) The big spoon-shaped leaf is especially attractive during the first few weeks after bud-break, when the young leaf is a brilliant red.

On Sunday, October 18th, 2009 we made a long stop in the Parque Recreativo El Huizteco, which is located in the mountains north of Taxco, Guerrero. We found ourselves in the middle of a large forest of *Quercus urbanii*. Everyone was thrilled by this remarkable oak and we busied ourselves gathering herbarium material, taking photos and looking for acorns. Unfortunately there were very few... On just one tree we found a few acorns that were still green. I had to climb the tree and tear my trousers to get half a dozen of them. Only two of the acorns germinated, and they are extremely slow growing.



Quercus urbanii graft at bud break, April, 2010.



Quercus urbanii graft in June 2010.

But propagation doesn’t have to be by seed only! As a precaution, I also took a few grafting scions, which I immediately defoliated and wrapped in a plastic bag. Back home in Belgium I stored the scions just below freezing until they were grafted onto *Quercus rubra* understock in early January, 2010. A few days later I put them on our hot callusing pipe unit to promote bonding. When the callus had formed after 21 days on the heat unit, we potted them up and put them in a frost-free greenhouse where they would stay until bud break.

Early in April, two of the grafts started to leaf out and I could admire again the beauty of the red juvenile leaf. The leaves are green now (June) and clearly spoon shaped, just as we saw them in Mexico. Even if I may not ever be able to plant this oak outside, I hope that I will be able to keep my grafted *Q. urbanii* in a pot for many years to come as a reminder of the wonderful time we had in Mexico.

Dirk Benoit
www.pavia.be



News From Your IOS Board

The new board installed at the Puebla conference has been busy moving the organization forward.

At the IOS General Meeting in Puebla members approved changes to the by-laws concerning membership and officer terms. Membership change includes two new categories, institutional and supporting. A new membership leaflet is being created to reflect the additional categories. The President and Vice President will now be able to serve **two consecutive three-year** terms if they are asked to do so. Previously these offices were restricted to **one three-year** term.

Vice President Charles Snyers d'Attenhoven has done an in-depth study of our website identifying areas for improvement and proposing modifications. Work on the website has now been hindered by the fact that our developer has serious health problems – we hope to be able to move forward on this soon. **Please be aware that there is a bug in the system that every now and then sends erroneous messages to members informing them that their membership has expired.** If you should receive one of these messages please let us know so that we can verify your status as far as website access is concerned, but do not worry. The only valid messages concerning your membership status come from Rudy Light, IOS Membership Director.

*Check out the
Oak Tours
listed on Page 10!*



It was decided in Puebla, and announced to the membership there, that the Triennial Conference in 2012 will be in France, with Thierry Lamant as Conference Chair. Preliminary discussions initiated by Béatrice Chassé have secured our Conference host: Antoine Kremer, Research Director at INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique), winner of the Wallenberg prize in 2006. He has, *inter alia*, done extraordinary research concerning how oaks repopulated Europe after the last glacial period. Of course most of the details about the Conference still need to be worked out, but discussion between Béatrice and Thierry, based on suggestions from Mr. Kremer, has already resulted in many exciting ideas that we are sure you won't want to miss!

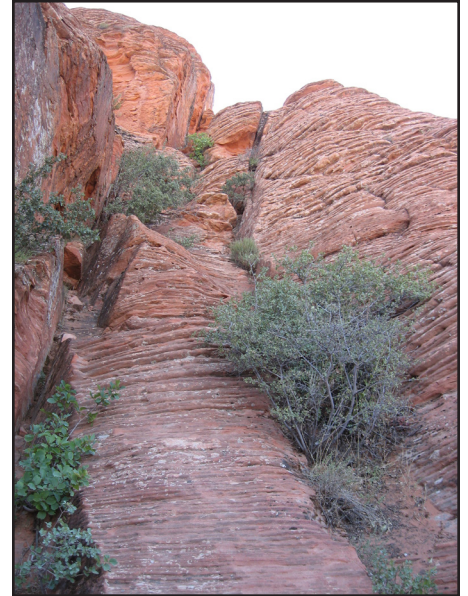
It has been proposed to have the 2015 Triennial Conference in China, a place of fabulous oaks and plants in general. (And Chinese cuisine is one of the best in the world...) This is an opportunity for the IOS to promote collaboration in a place where botanizing and seed collecting have not been easy to do. Currently, feasibility and logistics are being researched by the Board to ensure a successful conference. However, a final decision as to the location of the Conference in 2015 has not been made as yet.

As members, I encourage you to send me ideas and suggestions that will improve the society and increase our membership. And thank you for supporting the IOS!

James Hitz, Secretary
jehitz@taltree.org



Some Oaks of SW Utah USA



The oaks of the interior West of the US may not be numerous in terms of species, but those that there are, are rich in morphological variation. There are only three native oak species in Utah: *Q. gambelii* Nutt., *Q. turbinella* Greene, and *Q. havardii* var. *tuckeri* Welsh. There is some controversy as to whether the latter is truly a species, or just another of the swarm of hybrids between the first two that occur in the state, particularly in the south. These hybrids are often lumped together as *Quercus undulata* Torr. or *Quercus pauciloba* Rydb.

Hybrids between *Q. gambelii* and *Q. turbinella* are numerous, and were first investigated in depth in the middle of the 20th century by Walter P. Cottam at the University of Utah. A large collection of Cottam's hybrids is now in the State Arboretum of Utah on the University of Utah campus in Salt Lake City.

A particularly beautiful oak population, possibly of hybrid ancestry but well toward the *Q. turbinella* end, occurs just west of the village of Silver Reef, Utah, in the southwest corner of the state. The trees are small (12'-15'), evergreen, and a scintillating blue-gray in color. The tiny leaves are stiff and very prickly.

(Don't stir around in the duff with your bare hands searching for acorns — you will collect dozens of dry leaves sticking into your skin!) Living in an extremely arid environment on a pure mineral substrate, the older trees assume incredibly gnarled forms. The included photographs show how beautiful these trees are in their natural setting.

There is some interest in these hybrid trees in the local landscape trade, but they can only be grown successfully where similar environmental conditions prevail. For example, their dense growth and evergreen leaves are a perfect platform for snow or ice, which can cause serious breakage in areas with significant winter precipitation.

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IOS Represented at UC Davis Oak Discovery Day



Doug McCreary at the IOS information table.

On Sunday May 2, the UC Davis Arboretum hosted **Oak Discovery Day** at Shields Oak Grove, which is part of the University of California campus at Davis. Shields Grove is an impressive oak collection of 275 trees, including 84 oak taxa, that was supported from the start by the late Dr. John Tucker, a preeminent oak taxonomist who passed away in 2008 (see John's obituary in *Oak News & Notes* 13[1]). It is recognized as a collection of national significance through the North American Plant Collections Consortium (as is Guy Sternberg's Starhill Forest Arboretum). The first plantings were in 1962 and it is amazing how well many of the trees have grown. I sat at a table under a *Quercus macrocarpa* that was over 2 feet in diameter!

This event was organized by Emily Griswold, the Assistant Director of Horticulture at the Arboretum and a member of the International Oak Society, in partnership with Arboretum Ambassador interns. It featured a variety of events and speakers including an Arbor Day celebration, a planting of a valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), and a talk on Sudden Oak Death by Dr. David Rizzo. There were also a number of tables and displays by various organizations including the International Oak Society.

Our exhibit featured a newly developed poster, a variety of written materials and plant specimens (galls, leaves and acorns), and updated copies of the IOS

membership brochure. Hopefully some folks who came by to chat will join the Society.

All in all it was a wonderful day that provided an excellent opportunity to see some magnificent oaks and to meet and interact with other quercophiles. Around 500 people attended the event.

For any Society members who may be thinking about attending tree or conservation events and want to represent the International Oak Society, the poster can be viewed and downloaded at our web site (www.internationaloaksociety.org). I am sure there are many folks out there who would like to become members of our Society but have never heard of us or what we do. So let's spread the word!

Doug McCreary
mccreary@berkeley.edu



A future IOS member (!) in a huge burr oak in Shields Oak Grove.

The UC Davis Oak Family Tree Mural

The mural depicts the evolutionary relationships of 29 oak species growing in the UC Davis Arboretum's oak collection, as well as insects, birds, and other animals associated with the trees. The mural is dedicated to the late Dr. John Tucker for his contributions to the Arboretum oak collection and to oak scholarship on the campus of UC Davis.

The mural was created by UC Davis undergraduate students in Entomology 001, community members, and local school children, supervised by artist

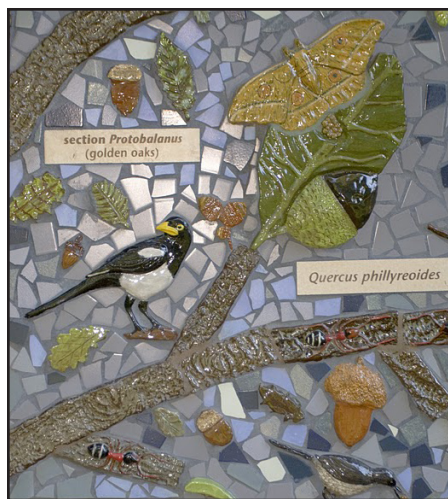
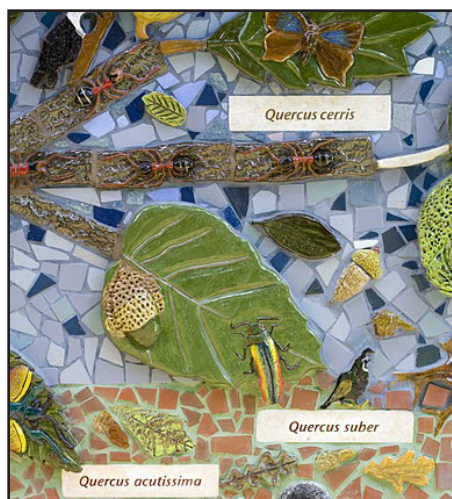
Donna Billick and entomologist Diane Ullman, co-directors of the UC Davis Art/Science Fusion Program. All of the participants collaborated in hand sculpting and painting tiles for the final mosaic, which was unveiled in the fall of 2008.

Sculpting clay leaves and acorns with Billick and Ullman was one of the featured attractions of Oak Discovery Day.

Allan Taylor
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The Oak Family Tree Mural.



Details from the Mural. (All photos by Allan Jones.)

Oak Open Day at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

There will be an Oak Open Day on July the 19th 2010 at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, near London, England. This is an event not to be missed! We could not be in better hands, as Tony Kirkham, Head of the Arboretum, has generously offered to welcome us and to be our guide for the day. The planned meeting point is the Main Gate at 9:45 a.m. We will pay Kew's entrance fee on arrival, and a charge of £2 for coffee during the day. We will also pay separately for our own lunches.

Tony will provide a list of the oak holdings at Kew, and also for Wakehurst Place, Kew's country annex.

The major part of the day will be spent in the Arboretum looking at oaks, but coffee will be provided on arrival and departure, and we will lunch at one of the restaurants in the gardens. We hope to have tables reserved so we can sit together.

Shaun Haddock
shaun.haddock@orange.fr

Please contact Shaun to register your interest in this event if you have not already done so. Shaun will contact you if any further information becomes available.



Oak Open Days 2010 SW Iberian Peninsula (Lisbon—Badajoz—Alentejo—Arrabida)

OAK OPEN DAYS 2010 SW Iberian Peninsula
(LISBON-BADAJOZ-ALENTEJO-ARRABIDA)

Wednesday, October 27

Arrive LISBON, Portugal. Overnight: Holiday Inn Continental (60 Euros).
Travel by tour bus, 40 seats. Cost: 50 euros per person.

Thursday, October 28

Itinerary: LISBON-PONTE DO SOR- ESTREMOZ- BADAJOZ

First Stop: PONTE DO SOR, Portugal.

Second Stop: ESTREMOZ, Portugal.

Today we will see the following oak species: *Q. lusitanica*, *Q. suber*, *Q. rotundifolia*, *Q. faginea* subsp. *broteroi*, *Q. rotundifolia*, and (possibly) *Q. coccifera*. Hybrids which we will/may see are *Q. lusitanica* × *Q. suber*, *Q. suber* × *Q. rotundifolia*, *Q. rotundifolia* × *Q. faginea* subsp. *broteroi*, *Q. faginea* subsp. *broteroi* × *Q. suber*, and *Q. coccifera* × *Q. rotundifolia*.

Overnight BADAJOZ, Spain: Hotel Rio (60 Euros).

Friday, October 29

Itinerary: BADAJOZ- VALLE DE SANTA ANA- TENTUDÍA- MONESTERIO

First Stop: VALLE DE SANTA ANA, Spain.

Second Stop: MONESTERIO, Spain.

Today we will see the following oak species: *Q. coccifera*, *Q. suber*, *Q. rotundifolia*, *Q. pyrenaica*, *Q. faginea*, *Q. robur* subsp. *estremadurensis*, *Q. lusitanica* and *Q. canariensis*. Hybrids or potential hybrids which we will/may see are *Q. faginea* × *Q. suber*, *Q. faginea* × *Q. canariensis*, *Q. faginea* × *Q. rotundifolia*, *Q. faginea* × *Q. coccifera*, *Q. coccifera* × *Q. rotundifolia*, *Q. robur* × *Q. canariensis*, *Q. canariensis* × *Q. faginea*, and *Q. pyrenaica* × *Q. faginea*.

Overnight MONESTERIO, Spain: Hotel Moya (50 Euros).

Saturday, October 30

Itinerary: MONESTERIO, FICALHO-ADICA- GRANDOLA-SETUBAL-LISBON

First Stop: FICALHO-ADICA, Portugal.

Second Stop: SERRA DE GRANDOLA, Portugal.

Third Stop: Serra ARRABIDA-SETUBAL, Portugal.

Today we will see the following oak species: *Quercus rotundifolia*, *Q. suber*, *Q. coccifera*, *Q. rivasmartinezii*, and *Q. faginea*. Hybrids which we will/may see are: *Q. coccifera* × *Q. rotundifolia*, *Q. rotundifolia* × *Q. suber*, *Q. suber* × *Q. rotundifolia*, and *Q. rivasmartinezii* × *Q. rotundifolia*.

Overnight LISBON: Holiday Inn Continental (60 Euros).

Sunday, October 31

End of tour, departure for home.

Approximate total cost of tour: 300 euros, no meals included.

Contact: Francisco Vázquez Pardo at the e-mail address below.

Francisco Vázquez Pardo
fvazquez50@hotmail.com

Open Day in Belgium

On the 4th of September we will visit the oak collection of Daniel Dumont in southern Belgium. Daniel Dumont, then a teenager, started to propagate and plant trees in 1960 in his father's 200 m² garden in Ciney, Belgium. He then added plots of land here and there to continue planting his expanding collection.

Today, Daniel's collection is spread over 9 plots of land ranging from the initial 200 square meters to 3 Ha, located in Southern Belgium and Brittany. Daniel collects just about any plant he can find. He has, for instance, an extensive conifer collection, including a good collection of pines.

Daniel was also a member of the pre-1994 IOS, and he obtained quite a few acorns thanks to this informal network. Today he has about 180 different oak taxa, including a few named cultivars and hybrids. Regrettably, the last two severe winters in Belgium have reduced his collection. For instance, he lost a *Quercus tomentella* that was first damaged during the winter of 2009 and then killed by the winter of 2010. Fortunately, there is still a *Q. tomentella* from the same accession in Brittany.

Daniel settled in Scoville, Belgium in 1986, where he has a 2 Ha garden behind his home. We will meet there on the 4th of September at 9:30 a.m. Where we will go after Scoville is undecided as yet. I will pay Daniel a visit in late July to determine how much we can see in one day. But I can already predict that we will not be going to Brittany...

Daniel Dumont's address is as follows:

9, rue des Chafors,
Mohiville, Belgium
(hamlet: Scoville)

Charles Snyers
charlessnyers@gmail.com

If you plan to attend, please send an email to Charles at this address.

Special Thanks

On behalf of the current board, I would like to extend sincere thanks again to retiring IOS board members. All deserve our thanks for guiding the IOS during their tenure, and turning it over to us in good running condition. I would like to single out four of these people who made particularly large contributions: Eike Jablonski, Doug McCreary, Dick Jensen, and Ron Lance.

Eike served as president of the IOS, and personally recruited many new members. Doug was the first editor of *Oak News and Notes*, and he was also responsible for a time for our journal, *International Oaks*. Dick, who designed our first website and was membership director from the beginning (retiring only last year), has provided continuity in this most essential board function, maintaining membership records and publishing our membership directory. Ron has been tireless in his service to our organization: chair of the Triennial Conference in 2000, president, secretary, and journal co-editor.

Any organization would be justly proud of such leaders: we ARE proud of you and salute and thank you for your selfless service!

Allan Taylor
tayloralro@comcast.net



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News from the Tour Committee

Schedule of Events 2010-2011

2010

Europe

1. Kew Garden Collection (London, England); organized by Shaun Haddock; 1 day, July 19.
2. Private Collection; Daniel Dumont (Belgium); organized by Charles Snyers; 1 day, September 4.
3. Hybrid oaks in southwestern Spain; organized by Francisco Vasquez; 4 days, October 28-31.

United States

1. "4 Oaks" and Dan Keiser's private collection (Minnesota, USA); 1 day, date to be determined. Check the IOS website for eventual date.

2011

Europe

1. Tour to NW Greece; organized by Dirk Benoit; approx. 7 days, autumn date to be determined.
2. Private Collection: Arboretum Wespe-laar, Philippe de Spoelberch (Belgium); organized by Charles Snyers; 1 day, date to be determined.

United States

1. Polly Hill Arboretum (Martha's Vineyard, USA); organized by Tim Boland; October date to be determined.



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Oak News and Notes

The Newsletter of the International Oak Society

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