International Oak Society

Oak News & Notes

The Newsletter of the International Oak Society, Volume 15, No. 2, Summer 2011

Image courtesy of Texas AgriLife Research, Dallas, TX.

Benny J. Simpson and Texas Oaks

One of the pioneers of the native plant movement in Texas was the late Benny Jack Simpson. He was a research scientist at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center just north of Dallas, although he preferred to think of himself as a "plant hunter" rather than a "research scientist." Benny's longtime project was to find new landscape plants for Texas and the U.S. Southwest, believing that native Southwestern

A fish (seedling?) this big: Benny Simpson in research greenhouse. (Photo: courtesy of Texas AgriLife Research, Dallas, TX.)

plants best fit the Southwest. For much of his career, Benny combed the western two thirds of Texas in search of worthy landscape plants. He collected up to sixteen different oak species as well as many other tree species. As a proud Texan, Benny's interest faltered at the thought of using plants from outside the Lone Star State.

As recently as the 1970s, Benny found little understanding among his colleagues, some of whom wondered if he was wasting the state's money in his research on native plants: "Hell, we're just paying you to camp out!" they would say only half joking. Benny would offer to drive skeptics out to the mountains of west Texas, but no one was interested. Eventually, Benny met others like himself such as the late Lynn Lowery, Carroll Abbott, and Barton Warnock, who are also native plant legends.

Gradually, interest in natives began to take off and Benny, Lynn and others promoted the interest by writing articles in what was called the Texas Wildflower Newsletter; this newsletter was founded in 1976 by Carroll Abbott, who also founded the Texas Native Plant Society in 1981. These articles still exist today and some are still a bit ahead of their time. After the Native Plant Society was established, Benny continued to contribute plant articles to their newsletter, sharing everything he knew about the plants which he was describing.

As Benny's research began to pay off, he was able to introduce cultivars of wild species to the nursery trade of Texas and the Southwest. He named and introduced nine in all; five of these are *cenizos*, shrubs in the genus *Leucophyllum*. ('Silver Cloud,' 'Thunder Cloud,' 'Rain Cloud,' and two others). His other introductions are a mountain salvia (*Salvia regla* Cav. 'Mount Emory'), a false indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa* L. 'Dark Lance') and two desert willows (*Chilopsis linearis*

Benny Simpson in front of the Texas AgriLife Research Center, Dallas, Texas. (Photo: Andy Wasowski.)

(Cav.) Sweet 'White Storm,' 'Dark Storm'). People who attended the 2006 IOS conference in Dallas (almost ten years after he passed away), saw, or could have seen, many of these plants.

No oaks were introduced by Benny at this time, but two selections eventually made it into the Texas Superstar program (*Q. laceyi* Small and *Q. muehlenbergii* Engelm.).

Due to the high lime content of most Texas soils, Benny concentrated his research on plants from the western two thirds of the state. These plants survive easily in the Dallas area on natural rainfall. This was part of the aim of his research, because he correctly foresaw a shortage of water for landscape plants in the burgeoning thirsty urban areas of west Texas such as Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, and San Antonio.

With the growing interest in native plants, Benny's time and knowledge were much in demand. He often gave tours at what he used to call the "Arboretum of Native Plants (ANP)." As I myself became interested in native plants, I would try to take as many of Benny's tours as I could. Benny knew the many uses of native plants and how the early settlers and native peoples used them. On early weekend mornings I used to walk through his plots, where I sometimes ran into him as he was watering something. He told me that the first few years the plant would get 'regular care,' "But after that, they are on their own." To this day, all his plantings are doing nicely.

Every trip to his arboretum was a new learning experience. You never knew what new native plant was there to be discovered. Standing in the back rows of west Texas or Hill country trees you could almost imagine being in their native habitat. It is truly a quiet and peaceful place set in the center of a bustling city, a refuge from the noise and haste of the urban surroundings.

Other establishments that share some of the Simpson plant collections are the Heard Museum in McKinney, Texas and the Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park near downtown Dallas. One of the largest trees in his original plot is the lone Langtry Red Oak (*Quercus graciliformis* C.H. Mull.). This tree was planted in the early 1970s. It came from a group of trees in a canyon near the Mexican border in southwest Texas. I would often quiz Benny about this tree and the last time I spoke with him he seemed to think the tree was a hybrid between *Q. gravesii* Sudw and *Q. canbyi* Trel. Unfortunately, that was the last time we spoke.

Other oaks in his collection include: *Q. buckleyi* Nixon & Dorr, *Q. fusiformis* Small, *Q. gravesii* Sudw., *Q. havardii* Rydb., *Q. intricata* Trel., *Q. laceyi* Small, *Q. mohriana* Buckl. ex Rydb, *Q. muehlenbergii* Engelm., *Q. oblongifolia* Torr., *Q. polymorpha* Schltdl. & Cham., *Q. pungens* Liebm., *Q. sinuata* Walter , Q. *sinuata* var. *breviloba* (Torr.) C.H. Mull., *Q. turbinella* Greene, *Q. vaseyana* Buckl. There are also some *Q. canbyi* and *Q. polymorpha* that were planted by an assistant who had gone on a collecting expedition with Lynn Lowery.

In the 1980s, the idea surfaced to prepare a book about Texas trees. After numerous proposals, *Benny's Field Guide to Texas Trees* was finally published in 1988; each native tree has a page devoted to its description. In the preface to the book is given the early plant checklist of Texas flora which led to the book, presented in his famous Texas "down home" style. The book was written for people of all ages who enjoy learning about native trees from all over the state.

Benny was really proud of his *Quercus* section, bragging on the numbers of oaks that are found in Texas. In his book he gives special thanks to friends like Lynn Lowery and even the late Sir Harold Hillier, the distinguished nurseryman and creator of the gardens and arboretum which carry his name in Romsey, Hampshire, England. On several occasions Benny and Lynn

***Quercus polymorpha* in the only native US population at Dolan Falls, Valverde County, Texas. (Photo: Benny Simpson, courtesy of the Texas Native Plant Society.)**

met with Hillier when he was passing through Texas on plant collecting expeditions. *The Field Guide to Texas Trees* is still in print and can be found in most libraries across the state.

After this book, Benny wrote a number of articles for the Texas gardening personality Neil Sperry. Most of these articles focused on trees. Some of Benny's articles took special interest in some of the smaller oaks such as *Q. mohriana*, *Q. vaseyana* Buckl, *Q. laceyi*, *Q. sinuata* var. *breviloba* (Torr.) and others. He argued that using these smaller oaks in landscaping makes much more sense than trying to use larger oaks on small lots. During the early 1990s a few growers where beginning to produce some of these native oaks. The Lacey oak (*Quercus laceyi* Small, also incorrectly known as *Q. glaucoides*) has become particularly popular and is encountered in cities and towns from Dallas down to San Antonio. During this time Benny continued showing his oak collection in front of the parking area at Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Dallas. The last oaks added there were some *Q. polymorpha* that had recently been found in Val Verde County, on the Mexican border. This discovery is described in the next paragraph.

In 1992, the Texas Nature Conservancy was surveying some land along the Devils River in southwestern Texas when they discovered a very small isolated box canyon that supported several gnarled, spreading oaks that looked somewhat like evergreen post oaks. The Conservancy asked Benny to try to identify them. They turned out to be *Quercus polymorpha*, the first and so far only record of this species growing natively in the U.S. The dominant oak in the area is *Q. vaseyana*, which dots the countryside like a miniature forest. Near this canyon you can find many hybrids with *Q. polymorpha*. The larger trees closer to the river look to be pure, similar to those in Mexico. Now

***Quercus polymorpha* tree grown from seed collected from the Dolan Falls population in Val Verde County, Texas, by Benny Simpson. The trees are growing at the Texas AgriLife Research Center, Dallas, Texas. (Photo: David Richardson.)**

that Texas had a native *Q. polymorpha*, Benny would say this was the one for Texans to grow. Today, *Q. polymorpha* is heavily planted in Austin and San Antonio. The source for these landscape trees is more likely the mountains of northern Mexico, however, since the Texas site is so small and isolated.

By the time Benny died unexpectedly in December, 1996 at age 68, he had finally acquired the respect due him as a professional horticulturalist; ever modest, it was not a title which he ever actively sought. Sweet-natured, generous, and humble, Simpson started the crusade for using Texas native plants, particularly trees and shrubs, as ornamentals in a time when few listened or cared. Gone with Benny is a wealth of invaluable information about Texas native plants. It was thought by some that Benny might have had a Texas native shrub book in the works, but no trace of a manuscript has come to light. Many of his photos have been preserved online. For trees, see http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/natives/ For shrubs, see http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/ Looking to the future, let us hope that Benny's rows of trees at "his" Dallas arboretum will be preserved as a part of what will be called the Urban Living Laboratory.

This laboratory, with more than one million square feet of planned building, will occupy 73 acres of land. It aims to become a world leader in efficient energy use and environmental design, dedicated to research, demonstration, and teaching. My personal wish is more modest: I hope that as many as possible of Benny's trees can be preserved there for generations to come, and that the once quiet research center north of Dallas, single-handedly planted by this dedicated admirer of native Texas trees, will always be available for public enjoyment, as Benny would have wished.

David Richardson

Oak Regeneration Across the Central Hardwood Region

Upland, mixed-oak forests make up over half of the forested land base in the Central Hardwood Region of the United States, an area that stretches from the Southern Appalachian Mountains across the Cumberland Plateau into the Ozarks, and includes parts of North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Missouri, and Arkansas. Though these forests are dominated by oak and hickory species, in many areas oaks are not successfully regenerating because of competition from more shade-tolerant or faster-growing species such as yellow poplar (tulip tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera* L.) and maple. Many of the forests in the area are already fragmented and face continued pressure from population growth and associated land use changes.

Spring oak leaves from an upland hardwood forest in North Carolina. (Photo: Zoe Hoyle, USDA Forest Service.)

Oaks have long played a pivotal role in the forest ecology of the region, determining the distribution, abundance and behavior of wildlife species ranging from the black bear to small mammals. The sustainability of these important forests is now threatened by widespread oak decline and the failure of oak seedlings to grow successfully into trees and replace mature oak trees as these become senescent and die.

Lack of oak regeneration can be traced to changes in historic disturbance patterns—decades of fire suppression, for example—and resulting shifts in forest composition that have favored faster-growing species such as yellow poplars and maples. Oak regeneration is a particular problem in moist, high quality sites where more competitive species thrive. Oak seedlings need certain levels of light to successfully grow into the midstory, where they are able to gain a competitive "edge" over faster-growing species, and a chance at gaining a dominant position when the canopy opens up. Too much or too little light allows the more competitive tree species to shade out and replace the oaks.

Restoring upland oak ecosystems is a focal area of research at the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station (SRS) unit located at the Bent Creek Experimental Forest near Asheville, NC, where long-term research has resulted in the silvicultural treatments widely used now to restore oak stands. Over the last two decades, studies on the experimental forest have expanded to include the effects of different treatments on other hardwood species, plant diversity, wildlife habitat, acorn availability, and other ecosystem effects. These have provided guidelines for oak restoration in the Southern Appalachian region that have been widely applied and used to train generations of foresters in that part of the country.

The broader Central Hardwood Region stretches across an area with great differences in terrain, water availability, soil characteristics, herbaceous plant communities, and wildlife. To develop general guidelines that can be applied more broadly throughout the Central Hardwood Region, the SRS upland hardwoods research unit has partnered with the Forest Service Northern Research Station, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the Stevenson Land Company, and the Mark Twain National Forest to

Mixed upland hardwoods stand. (Photo: Mary Ann Favjan, West Virginia University, courtesy of *Forestry Images*.)

install new study sites in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Missouri. The sites will test three different treatments used to promote oak regeneration, including prescribed burning over 11 years, and studies on the response of reptile, amphibian, small mammal species, bats, and breeding birds.

Results from the regional study will allow scientists to develop guidelines for sustainable oak ecosystem management within the Central Hardwood Region, helping to ensure that these forests continue to provide the ecological and economic benefits the region has long enjoyed.

Read more about SRS hardwood research at http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/uplandhardwood/research.html.

You can also contact Tara Keyser at 828-667-5261 or tkeyser@fs.fed.us

Zoe A. Hoyle

Habitat Diversity and Oaks on the South Florida Coast

When a 2011 business meeting took me to Boca Raton, Florida, I expected to find little undisturbed native habitat. Wrong! Since the 1980s, Palm Beach County, just north of Miami and Fort Lauderdale, has acquired and preserved an impressive string of some thirty isolated, somewhat degraded but still functioning remnants of natural habitat.

I visited six of these natural areas, all within a span of thirty miles. All the sites I visited were less than 60' above sea level and none bore a close resemblance to any other. Palm Beach county literature states that each site is home to at least five of the seven *Quercus* species native to the county: *Q. chapmanii* Sarg., *Q. geminata* Small, *Q. laurifolia* Michx., *Q. minima* (Sarg.) Small, *Q. myrtifolia* Willd., *Q. pumila* Walt., and *Q. virginiana* Mill. – and the variations in plant characteristics from site to site were astonishing.

Yamato Scrub and Delray Oaks Natural Areas.

Yamato Scrub Natural Area is a 217-acre site close to the Atlantic Coast in Boca Raton. The most striking feature of the scrub community was the vast open expanses of the bluish grey-green saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens* (W. Bartram) Small), only one meter tall, punctuated and ringed by the bright green sand pines (*Pinus clausa* (Chapm. ex Engelm.) Vasey ex Sarg.)

Q. geminata. **(Photo: Shirley Denton.)**

Q. chapmanii **in fall color. (Photo: Shirley Denton.)**

and South Florida slash pines (*Pinus elliottii* Engelm.).

Delray Oaks Natural Area, a 25-acre tract less than two miles north of Yamato Scrub, was like a garden. *Q. virginiana* dominates a shady hardwood forest here, along with cabbage palms (*Sabal palmetto* (Walter) Lodd. ex Schult. & Schult.f.). The late afternoon January sun glanced through the overstory to light up the blue-green saw palmettos and bright green ferns (bracken and swamp fern, *Blechnum serrulatum* Rich.), dotted everywhere by the purple fruit of American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana* L.). In a scrubby area adjacent to the forest's "mesic hammock," I encountered a gopher tortoise – a protected species that digs burrows over 30 feet long in the scrub.

High Ridge Scrub and Hypoluxo Scrub Natural Areas.

High Ridge Scrub Natural Area is a 39-acre site some ten miles north of Delray Oaks and again close to the coast. This site is a small fragment of what was once a large ridge between coastal and inland lake systems. Some of the ridge here was destroyed by a sand-mine operation 50 years ago; about 30 feet of elevation disappeared, leaving a steep climb to the remaining portion of the ridge.

On the ridge were various oak species from one to three meters in height. Leaf morphology was so diverse I had difficulty distinguishing among *Q. geminata, Q. virginiana, Q. minima,* and *Q. pumila.* There was one small oak with leaves less than one cm. long. Meanwhile, in the shady bottomland of the reserve below the ridge, there were lush *Q. chapmanii* with leaves up to 13-14 cm. long.

Hypoluxo Scrub Natural Area, a little over a mile east toward the coast, is *flat* and *dry!* The northern portion of this 97-acre tract is marked primarily by open expanses of sand between mounds of *Q. geminata* three to four meters high, with an occasional short *Q. chapmanii.*

Q. geminata. **(Photo: Shirley Denton.)**

Juno Dunes and Frenchman's Forest Natural Areas.

Juno Dunes Natural Area covers 578 acres and stretches from the seashore to the Intercoastal Waterway at a spot some 30 miles north of Boca Raton. The dune ridge adjacent to the shore reaches about forty feet in elevation and is covered primarily by one-meter tall *Q. geminata* with narrow, rolled leaves. Behind this ridge and across the coastal highway and a tidal swamp is a broad dune scrub of *Q. geminata, Q. myrtifolia,* and *Q. chapmanii* in a dense assembly, most no more than 1.5 meters tall.

Mid- to late January in Florida, 2011, was autumn, winter, and spring all at once. Here at Juno Dunes, *Q. chapmanii* and *Q. myrtifolia* still had ripening acorns and many *Q.*

chapmanii wore bright fall colors, while some buds on *Q. geminata* were swelling and there were fresh, new leaves on *Q. chapmanii* seedlings from the prior year.

Frenchman's Forest Natural Area, a short distance southwest of Juno Dunes, is a jumble of pine flatwoods, strand swamp, hydric hammock, depression marsh, and tidal swamp. Here I saw my only *Q. laurifolia*, still dropping acorns, among big *Q. virginiana* and tree-sized *Q. myrtifolia*. This site was wet enough to support bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum* (L.) Rich.), with *Q. laurifolia* just uphill where the flat met the swamp's slope.

Q. myrtifolia. **(Photo: Shirley Denton.)**

Q. minima. **(Photo: Shirley Denton.)**

Q. pumila. **(Photo: Shirley Denton.)**

The Palm Beach County website gives abundant information on all these and many other natural areas, including detailed management plans that provide historical, geologic, and ecological background. http://www.pbcgov.com/erm/natural/natural-areas/

Dirk Giseburt

Q. virginiana. **(Photo: Shirley Denton.)**

Update—"Toomer's Oaks" Poisoning at Auburn University, Alabama

Shortly after winning the 2010 National Championship, the first since 1957, Auburn fans and alumni were shocked to learn that a prominent university icon, two Southern live oaks (*Q. virginiana* Mill.) growing at Toomer's Corner, the intersection of College and Magnolia streets and the entrance to the Auburn campus, had been poisoned by a fan of cross-state rival University of Alabama. The man was purportedly angered over Auburn's victory over Alabama in 2010 and a posthumous slight to the famed Alabama coach, Paul "Bear" Bryant by Auburn students back in 1983. The perpetrator of the crime telephoned a sports radio call-in show and announced that he had poisoned the "Toomer's Oaks" with Spike 80DF. He was subsequently identified, arrested, and indicted on multiple felony and misdemeanor charges.

The active ingredient of Spike 80DF is tebuthiuron, a member of the substituted urea herbicides, which, when applied to soil, are taken up by the plant's roots and translocated to the leaves, where photosynthesis is inhibited by generation of superoxide radicals which damage cellular membranes.

Analysis of soil samples taken from beneath the oaks indicated that levels of tebuthiuron were more than 50 times the level typically considered to be lethal. University personnel have undertaken aggressive actions to mitigate damage, first by removal of concrete sidewalks in the root zones of the trees, followed by heavy irrigation of the exposed soil in the area in an effort to 'flush' the herbicide away. Activated charcoal slurry was also added to bind the herbicide, and the trees were sprayed with anti-desiccants to retard transpiration and to slow uptake of the herbicide in soil water. Excavation and replacement of some of the contaminated soil was also done.

At present, the tree on the College St. side of the corner appears to be most severely affected by the herbicide. It has fewer and smaller leaves than normal, and over 80% of leaves exhibit chlorosis and 'burnt' edges. While the tree on the Magnolia St. side currently shows minimal evidence of herbicide damage, it is not healthy, having been damaged by fire in 2007 and 2010.

Members of the Auburn University Forestry Club and Wildlife Society have been gathering acorns and growing seedlings from the two Toomer's Corner live oaks since 2002, for sale to Auburn alumni to fund scholarships for students in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences. The ortets have been cloned by grafting to further support the FWS scholarship fund efforts – and it appears that at least one ramet of each tree may be needed to replace the original *Q. virginiana* trees – although 100+ years will be required for them to once again attain their former splendor.

Lucky Pittman

"Mr. Al" Moves to a New Address

Two years ago the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development began plans to build a service road along I-90 which would have necessitated destroying a venerable live oak (*Q. virginiana* Mill.) called "Mr. Al" which was growing in the proposed right of way. Residents, arborists, the local Optimist Club, and the Live Oak Society began measures to save it from being removed. The result was a decision to transplant the tree. The task of moving the tree was entrusted to a Houston, Texas, firm called Environmental Design, which specializes in transplanting mature trees. ("Mr. Al" is believed to be between 120 and 150 years old.) The cost of the venture was $300,000, which came from federal and state DODT funds..

Although expensive, it is possible to transplant a live oak because of its wide-spreading roots. To prepare for the move, workers dug a large circle around the oak, pruned its roots and then wrapped the 42-foot-diameter root ball in plastic, burlap, and wire. Large pipes were then pushed under the root ball to create a metal floor so jacks could lift the 880,000-pound load onto the trailers. The trailers used to transport the tree have a total of 192 wheels and are more commonly used for moving ships and other large industrial loads.

Once in place in its new home one and a half miles farther west, at the LA 83 exit ramp, the tree was lowered to the ground surface and dirt from the original site was piled over and around the root ball. A well was drilled on the site to supply an automatic irrigation system for the oak. During its convalescence, "Mr. Al" will be carefully tended by Mr. Jim "Possum" Foret, knicknamed "the Tree Whisperer," a teacher and arborist at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. "Mr. Al" is on the registry of the Live Oak Society. A portfolio of photographs of the move can be viewed at http://gallery.me.com/treemover#100880&view=grid&bgcolor=black&sel=0
A month and a half after the move, "Mr. Al" appears to be in good condition, with almost no leaf loss.

Coleen Perilloux Landry

Coleen Perilloux Landry is the current chairman of the Live Oak Society, founded in 1934 to register and monitor notable live oaks in Louisiana. Each registered tree becomes a "member" of the society, which has only one human member, the chairman. There are at present more than 6,250 members of the LOS. Several years ago,

"Mr. Al" is carefully dug out of his original growing site, mid May, 2011. (Photos: Lee Ball, courtesy of the *Daily Iberian*, New Iberia, Louisiana.)

Moving "Mr. Al" attracted a lot of attention.

"Mr. Al" ready to be unloaded on May 17th at the place where he will spend the rest of his life.

another live oak, "Old Dickory," also found itself in the way of a land development project. The 600-year-old tree was saved from destruction by a public campaign headed by Ms. Landry. The governor of Louisiana eventually "pardoned" Old Dickory and the road was rerouted. Ms. Landry maintains a large gallery on line of color photographs on a great many Louisiana topics. One of her photo collections is devoted exclusively to live oaks, including "Old Dickory". To access this gallery, google "Coleen Perilloux Landry Gallery."

Let the good times roll!

Allan Taylor

A new CCVS label for l'Arboretum des Grandes Bruyères

A National Collection label (awarded by the Conservatoire des Collections Végétales Spécialisées) for the oaks of temperate North America has been awarded to l'Arboretum des Grandes Bruyères (see ***Oak News & Notes, Volume 14, No. 2, 2010***).

These taxa are only a part of the oak collection at les Grandes Bruyères which totals 370 specimens representing 128 taxa.

The sandy, acid soil that goes to a depth of between 40 and 100 cm, lies atop a more humid clay, which, according to Bernard de la Rochefoucauld, explains why these trees, that plunge their roots deeply rather quickly, do not suffer from the relatively dry climate (average annual rain fall, 600 mm/23.6 inches).

Brigitte and Bernard are particularly proud of a *Q. phellos* L., planted in the 90's that is over 10 m tall today, as well as of a *Q. palustris* Münchh. that has also grown remarkably well.

Congratulations for this new honor - not their first CCVS label, and probably not their last!

Béatrice Chassé

Letter from IOS President to Members in Japan

Sent to our 6 Japanese members on 17 March 2011, we have since received news from all of them that they are well. Let us keep them in our thoughts.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the International Oak Society, your friends from all over the world would like to express their shock and overwhelming sadness about what is happening in Japan and the implications for the rest of the planet.

Our concern for your well-being as well as for the rest of the Japanese people and all those living in your country is tremendous - if only our worries could be sufficient to keep you and your loved ones out of harm's way!

Our thoughts and hopes go out to you every day as we follow the unraveling of these events. Is there anything that any of us can do – either as individuals or as a group – that would be helpful in any way? It seems illusory to ask, but the question is sincere.

We have had some news via Eike Jablonski and for this are very grateful. We can only hope with all our hearts that you will continue to be safe and that the situation will evolve in the best possible way for you and the rest of the world.

For the Board and all of our members,

Béatrice Chassé
President

From the Editor

European Oak Borer in North America

Early in 2010 the European oak borer, *Agrilus sulcicollis* Lacordaire (*Buprestidae*), was reported for the first time in the United States when it was identified from a trap collection in Michigan from 2003. More recently, EOB was found in a trap in Brockport, New York (Monroe County). EOB was reported in Ontario, Canada, in February 2009.

Agrilus sulcicollis is considered an economic pest that may be a factor of oak decline in Europe, but recent literature describes this beetle as more of a secondary pest. EOB prefers to infest upper parts of the stems, branches and smaller sized host trees. The beetle also inhabits freshly cut timber. EOB is native to most of Europe, except for northernmost parts. The larvae develop in or under bark of live *Quercus* species, and require between one and two years to develop before emerging as adults. The host range of EOB includes *Quercus* spp. (oak), *Castanea* spp. (chestnut), and *Fagus* spp. (beech).

From *Tree Care Industry*

February 2010

Correction

I regret that an incorrect date was given in the last newsletter (***Oak News & Notes, Vol 15, No. 1, Winter 2011***, page 9) for the planting of a *Quercus crassifolia* Bonpl. at the Kew Royal Botanic Gardens. The published date--1934--is off by nearly a century. The tree was actually planted in 1840. I also apologize for not crediting the fine account of the Oak Open Day at Kew to our former president, Eike Jablonski.

In Memoriam

Piers Trehane

1950 — 2011

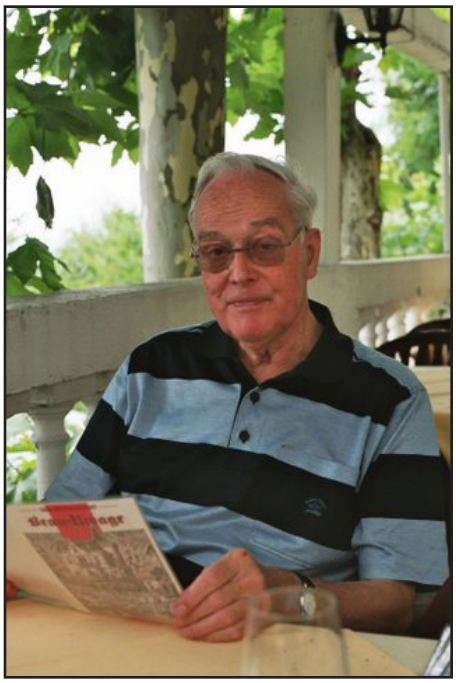
The sudden death of Piers Trehane in March of this year came as a shock to many people around the world. I had known Piers for more than 20 years, first meeting him shortly after the publication of his *Index Hortensis*. Our mutual interest in plant names made us good friends and frequent correspondents, and we served on several committees together such as HORTAX, the Horticultural Taxonomy Group. He led an extremely busy life and devoted himself unselfishly to his work, making significant contributions to both the cultivated code (ICNCP) and the botanical code (ICBN).

When the International Oak Society was looking for a registrar for oak cultivars, Piers was the first person I approached; after 'sounding us out' at our first conference at the Morton Arboretum in 1994, he agreed to take on the position. We could not have found a better person for this task as his website oaknames.org shows. I worked closely with him on this, documenting cultivars, finding standard specimens, and getting them photographed. This site, which provides us with a quick and easy reference for the names of oak species and cultivars, will always stand as a memorial to him.

It was Piers who introduced me to Michael Heathcoat Amory, holder of the National Collection of oaks at Chevithorne Barton in Devon, UK. Over several years we would meet for regular weekends there, culminating in the publication of Michael Heathcoat Amory's *The Oaks of Chevithorne Barton*. Many a late night was spent discussing and sometimes arguing over finer points of horticultural nomenclature. He was also actively involved in the nomenclature of other groups of plants such as hostas and water lilies.

Although Piers was very much a nomenclaturist, it was always a pleasure to show him what the actual plants looked like, such as in the collection at Chevithorne Barton and when he visited us here in Mexico for the 6th International Oak Conference in 2009. Outside of the plant world, Piers' life was equally active; he devoted much of his time to his sons and to good causes, even becoming a Councillor for his home town of Wimborne in Dorset. Goodbye dear friend, we will always miss you and remember you.

Allen Coombes



Hugues Vaucher

5 June 1922 – 13 November 2010

On Saturday, 13th November, 2010, Hugues Vaucher passed away in Bienne, Switzerland, his home town since 1953. To many members of the IOS, of which he had been a member since 1997, Hugues was known as a man passionate about tree bark. He published two books on this topic in French (*Les Arbres, leurs écorces, Paris*, 1980; *Guide des écorces, Neuchâtel*, 1993). The Guide was later translated into English and published by Timber Press (*Tree Bark: A Color Guide*; hardcover, 2003, paperback, 2010). The English edition includes more than 500 photographs of the bark of more than 400 species of trees. Many of his photographs of bark were widely exhibited in Europe, particularly in Switzerland and France. He also composed a five-language dictionary of names of trees and shrubs (Latin, English, French, German, Italian), *Elsevier's Dictionary of Trees and Shrubs*, published in Bienne in 1986.

Nevertheless, Hugues Vaucher's main achievement is the Bibliothèque Suisse de Dendrologie, the Swiss Library of Dendrology, http://www.livresbsd.ch/. When he retired in 1982, he devoted most of his time to dendrology and collected all publications of interest that he could find on the subject. In 1995 he created the Fondation suisse pour la dendrologie (FSD), to preserve his growing library. Since 2002, this library has been housed at the Arboretum National du Vallon de l'Aubonne, in Aubonne, Switzerland.

Hugues Vaucher belonged to a numerous and ancient Swiss watchmaking family, and he also trained as a watch-maker. His profession eventually took him to the United States, where he resided from 1949 to 1953, working for Hamilton in Lancaster, Pennsylvania for 2 years, then for Timex in Little Rock, Arkansas and in Waterbury, Connecticut. In 1953, he decided to return to Switzerland and settled in Bienne, where he continued to work as a watch-maker. He retired in 1982 to concentrate on his interest in tree bark and on assembling his dendrological library.

The Swiss Library of Dendrology became a member of the IOS this year.

Charles Snyers

Call for Candidates for the IOS Board of Directors

Every three years the entire Board of Directors is newly selected by the general membership, so during the months prior to the 2012 conference in France we will conduct the Board election by mail.

The Election Committee therefore requests that members submit names of potential candidates for the Board. The Society seeks to have an active Board made up of individuals that represent the international character and the diverse interests and skills of the membership. Because we have no paid staff, the volunteer Board and its committees perform all duties required for proper functioning of the organization. Candidates for Board positions should be members in good standing with the desire to serve the Society by working with others toward furthering our common goal of appreciation and preservation of the genus *Quercus* and its ecosystems.

Since its incorporation in 1994, the International Oak Society has grown and flourished under the leadership, vision, and hard work of a few individuals. Their determination and passion has brought us to where we are today and equally dedicated new Board members are needed to ensure the bright future of the International Oak Society. Several key functions, e.g., society treasurer, have been fulfilled by the same individuals for many years now, but will be vacant as of next year. So more than ever, the Society needs your help now!

IOS members who would like to run for the Board should send a brief résumé along with a letter of intention explaining why they would like to be a Board member and in what areas they would like to contribute. Future lines of development include managing the IOS website, increasing membership, developing fund-raising campaigns to help with *Quercus* research and conservation efforts around the world, and more. Candidates with placement, institutional support, or skills that can contribute to specific administrative functions are especially encouraged to apply.

We look forward to receiving suggestions that will maintain the quality of the Society as an organisation. It should be noted that many individuals contribute greatly to the Society without being Board members: Diana Gardener, who organizes the Board elections ; Shaun Háddock, Emily Griswold, Francisco Vazquez and Tim Boland who have recently organized or are organizing Oak Open Days; Ryan Russell who has become involved in the website, and those who organize the triennial conferences such as David Richardson and Maricela Rodriguez Acosta. Active participation in the life of the Society can be in many forms. New ideas are welcome: please let us know your vision for the Society!

Given the great distances that usually separate Board members, candidates need to have an e-mail address and be willing to communicate in this way. Correspondence regarding candidates and the election should be sent to any Board member (contact information can be found in your Membership Directory or on the web site), or to Diana Gardener:

Diana Gardener, Election Committee Chairperson
P.O. Box 284
Silverton, Oregon 97381 USA
quercusgardener@earthlink.net

Thank you!

2011 Tours

1. Belgian Oak Open Day at Wespelaar Arboretum and the private Herkenrode garden, Haacht-Wespelaar, Belgium. September 4.
Host: Philippe de Spoelberch. Organizer: Charles Snyers.

The Wespelaar Arboretum is part of the estate of Philippe de Spoelberch. The c. 19 hectares of the arboretum harbor a collection of over 4,000 specimen trees and shrubs. The private Herkenrode Garden is adjacent to the arboretum.

The day will start with a visit to the oak collection of the National Botanical Garden of Belgium, Meise, Belgium, just north of Brussels. This rich garden, arboretum, and library is located on the grounds of Bouchout Castle, and is one of the largest botanical gardens in the world. Its collection includes 18,000 plant species, about 6% of all known plant species in the world. The collection is evenly divided between greenhouses and outside plantings.

Enquiries welcome at charles.snyers@gmail.com.

2. Greek Oak Open Days in Northwest Greece. September 26-October 2.
Host: Bruno van Puijenbroek. Organizer: Dirk Benoit

Tour begins and ends in Igoumenitsa, Greece. Visitors arrive in Igoumenitsa and lodge at Hotel Angelika Pallas, near the Korfu ferryport.

September 26. Drive along coast to Parga. Rich sea-level Mediterranean flora (macchie), including *Q. ilex*, *Q. macrolepis*, *Q. coccifera*, *Q. pubescens*. Archaeological site of Dymokastron. Overnight at Lichnos Beach.

September 27. Drive through mountains of the Zagoria district. Numerous oak species along the way (*Q. frainetto*, *Q. cerris*, *Q. pubescens*, *Q. trojana*, *Q. petraea*, *Q. robur*), as well as typical Mediterranean flora. Evening visit to Gorge of Voidomatis. Overnight in the village of Vitsa.

September 28. More Mediterranean flora; overnight again in Vitsa.

September 29. Drive paralleling Albanian border through Konitsa to Nestorion. Many oak species and hybrids along the way. Overnight in mountain town of Kastoria, on beautiful Lake Orestiada. The town is famous for Byzantine churches, secular Turkish architecture, and the furs for which the town is named (Kastor means 'beaver').

September 30. Drive from Kastoria to the Prespa lakes on the Albanian and Macedonian borders. Many oak species and hybrids in a special microclimate. Overnight on a small island in Lake Mikre Prespa.

October 1. Drive from Prespa lakes to Kalambaka, at the base of the world-famous monasteries of Meteora. Overnight in hotel facing the church-crowned rock spires.

October 2. Morning, sightseeing in Pindus Mountains around Kalambaka; afternoon, return through Metsovon to Igoumenitsa. Overnight Hotel Angelika Pallas. End of tour.

Price of tour: €500 with double occupancy. Sign up by Sep 1, make deposit by Sep 15. Most costs included. Not included: lodging at Hotel Angelica, evening meals, tips. For more information and payment details dirk.benoit@telenet.be.

3. American Oak Open Days, Boston and Cape Cod, Massachusetts. September 28 – October 2.
Hosts and organizers: Tim Boland and Tom Clark.

September 28. Afternoon arrival at Logan Airport, Boston. Dinner in evening in Brookline, MA; overnight in Boston.

September 29. All day visit to Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, including lunch. Tour of their expansive oak collection and curatorial and propagation facilities. Overnight in Boston.

September 30. Morning visit to Mount Auburn Cemetery. Afternoon to Martha's Vinyard; evening dinner at Oak Bluffs, overnight in bed and breakfast on the island.

October 1. Visit to Polly Hill Arboretum. Deep Bottom Reservation, Manuel F. Correlus State Forest. Dinner at Far Barn, Polly Hill Arboretum. Overnight at B & B.

October 2. Tour ends. Visitors dropped off at Woods Hole, MA for return to Logan Airport.

Lodging in Boston and on Martha's Vinyard will be around $750.00. Transportation and meal costs to be paid individually by tour participants. Enquiries welcome at tim@pollyhillarboretum.org.

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The Newsletter of the International Oak Society
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7TH INTERNATIONAL OAK SOCIETY CONFÉRENCE 2012

BORDEAUX-FRANCE
29 sep - 02 oct

Pre-Conference Tour 26 sep-29 sep
(starts in Paris - ends in Bordeaux)

Conference 29 sep-02 oct
(Bordeaux)

Post-Conference Tour 03 oct - 07 oct
(starts in Bordeaux - ends near Périgueux)
transfer to airport of your choice will be arranged

Hosted by Antoine Kremer (INRA), the 7th International Oak Society Conference will take place in the Agora Haut Carré (University of Bordeaux Conference Center).
The Pre-Conference Tour ends in Bordeaux early in the afternoon on 29 september (participants must arrive on 25 september in Paris).
A welcome cocktail as well as conference registration are scheduled for 29 september (early evening) and the Conference begins the following morning.

With speakers from Algeria, Belgium, China, France, Germany, Romania, Spain and the United States of America, the presentations cover a vast range of *Quercus* subjects.

Program details and costs will be announced shortly.

www.internationaloaksociety.org

International Oak Society