



International Oaks

The Journal of the International Oak Society

...new species from Mexico, measuring the pace of evolution, the fabulous history of folk taxonomy, the oak-loving birds of India, amblings in Italy...

Issue No. 32 / 2021 / ISSN 1941-2061



International Oaks

The Journal of the International Oak Society

...new species from Mexico, measuring the pace of evolution, the fabulous history of folk taxonomy, the oak-loving birds of India, amblings in Italy...

Issue No. 32 / 2021 / ISSN 1941-2061





International Oaks Issue No. 32

Editor Béatrice Chassé
Co-Editor Allen Coombes
Editorial Committee Roderick Cameron, Dirk Giseburt, Shaun Haddock, Ryan Russell

International Oak Society Officers and Board of Directors 2018-2022

Officers

President Shaun Haddock (France)
Vice-President Roderick Cameron (Uruguay)
Secretary James E. Hitz (USA)
Treasurer Dirk Giseburt (USA)

Directors

Tim Boland (USA)
Béatrice Chassé (France)
Dan Kostka (USA)
Ryan Russell (USA)

For contributions to *International Oaks*

contact

Béatrice Chassé

pouyouleix.arboretum@gmail.com or editor@internationaloaksociety.org

Author's guidelines for submissions can be found at
<http://www.internationaloaksociety.org/content/author-guidelines-journal-ios>

© 2021 International Oak Society

Copyright of *International Oaks* and to articles in the final form as they appear in the publication, belong to the International Oak Society. Copyrights to texts, photographs, illustrations, figures, etc., belong to individual authors and photographers.

Photos. Cover: Béatrice Chassé (*Quercus depressa*, Arboretum des Pouyouleix, France). Page 7: Tim Boland (*Q. alba*, Chilmark Pond, MA, USA). Page 9: Gérard Lionet.

www.internationaloaksociety.org
Join the International Oak Society today!

Table of Contents

—/ 7 /—

Foreword

Conversation with Trees

Timothy M. Boland

—/ 9 /—

Introduction

The Multifaceted Oak

Béatrice Chassé

—/ 11 /—

Notes on Two Recently Described Mexican Oaks

Luz María González-Villarreal

—/ 17 /—

A New Interpretation of Mexico's Racemose Red Oaks

Ross A. McCauley

—/ 25 /—

Evolution in action: rapid genetic and demographic changes in *Q. petraea* and *Q. robur*

Antoine Kremer

—/ 35 /—

An Oak by Any Other Name

Roderick Cameron

—/ 60 /—

As Sweet As It Gets

Joan Montserrat

—/ 75 /—

Q. leucotrichophora Forest as a Bird Habitat in the Western Himalayas

Ghazala Shahabuddin and Tarun Menon

—/ 89 /—

Quercus rex: Distribution, Status, and Conservation

Qiansheng Li, Min Deng, and Mengmeng Gu

—/ 97 /—

Revisiting *Quercus ×ganderi* in Carl Wolf's Footsteps

Dirk Giseburt

—/ 113 /—

New and Lesser-Known Oak Cultivars 2020
Ryan Russell, Eike J. Jablonski, and Allen J. Coombes

—/ 125 /—

Il Bosco delle Querce di Ome, Italy
October 3, 2020
Morgan Santini

—/ 135 /—

Quercus pubescens and Friends in Sicily
October 18-23, 2020
Morgan Santini

—/ 145 /—

Oak Savana Medicine: a Quest by Bike in Iowa, USA
Suzanne Bartlett Hackenmiller

—/ 155 /—

In Our Garden
Béatrice Chassé

—/ 184 /—

Index of Scientific Plant Names

ERRATA – Issue No. 31

Page 117: currently accepted nomenclature for *Q. liebmannii* is *Q. liebmannii*.
Pages 6, 11, 161: correct spelling of the author's name is Josef Souček.



FOREWORD

Conversation with Trees

I hope this publication finds you healthy and well. The world situation, with the calamity of a devastating pandemic coupled with dangerous political upheaval, has left most of us traumatized to varying degrees. Despite the lockdowns and isolation, a few unexpected benefits have emerged – gratitude and time for introspection. One question keeps occurring in my mind: how did I come to love oak trees?

For that matter, how did you come to love oaks?

My earliest memories with trees are as a young boy who spent nearly every waking moment engaged in the woods and waters near my Michigan (USA) home. One day while playing with friends in the park across from my house, a large, yellow, city truck pulled up at the end of the street and two men emerged with orange paint buckets. We watched puzzled as they marked every tree trunk with a broad, sloppy X. Two days later on a sun-splashed morning, they returned with large saws – an armed battalion dedicated to the destruction and removal of my shady tree world. The trees were a magnificent arching canopy of American elms (*Ulmus americana*) but they were infected with Dutch Elm Disease (DED). One by one these stately trees were dropped to the earth and cut into manageable pieces. The trunks, limbs, and brush piled high in the center of the park, doused with diesel fuel and burned to ash before us.

To the spectators, the elms seemed perfectly fine. Up to that moment, I had taken trees for granted, and I was confused as I wondered why these trees never let me know they were sick. From this tough moment came a conscious desire to listen to trees, to understand them, and through this newfound relationship, understand the nature of the world. Now as a grown man, I realize I still don't understand the nature of the world, especially one filled with unsustainable commerce, unbridled consumption, and civil unrest. I do however still listen to the trees and I find comfort there.

I live in an interesting place, the Island of Martha's Vineyard off the coast of Cape Cod, which has a long occupational history (for North America). Populated by the Wampanoag over 5,000 years ago, the first European colonists arrived in 1602, and with them came immense change and much tree felling. Today the Island is a popular tourist destination and a second-homeowner community for the affluent. While deemed a paradise to

vacationers, it has its challenges for a horticulturist. The soils are lacking in nutrients: literally sand piled on top of gravel. Despite this fact, the landscape is dominated by oak trees that endure hurricane-force winds, salt-filled air, and persist with great individuality to stand firm through changing seasons and challenging times.

The pandemic has increased my need to commune with trees, meet them where they stand resolute and gain insight from their tenacity so as not feel so alone when human connections have been limited. I often travel to one oak in particular, found near the ocean in a lonely grassland of little blue-stem and tall switch grass. It is a supremely stunted white oak (*Quercus alba*) that grows at such an extreme arch it almost looks like it could separate from its stout trunk and roll like a tumbleweed into the ocean. Year after year I return to this tree like it's an oracle, and each time it stares back, questioning me: "Where do we go from here?" Did I mention, trees ask really hard questions?

I am afraid I don't have the answers, but I know that these meetings with oaks have made my days better and my outlook brighter. I resolve to keep having these conversations. A recent insight led me to the conclusion that not only does humanity have to unite against a multitude of global challenges, but with our most open hearts and minds we need to unify with nature. The conversation needs to move away from one of human-centric dominion to earth-centric salvation. For me, and perhaps for you, the best way to advocate for that change is to start with trees.

One way we can unify with nature is support its conservation. In my role on the IOS Board of Directors and as Chair of the Oak Conservation and Research Committee, we are devoted to furthering the study of endangered oaks and their ecosystems. In a sense, we are having real conversations with trees, listening and responding. This important work helps both the IOS and the oak trees we love. That is reason for optimism in the year ahead.

This past summer on a road trip to pick up our daughter in Chicago, I travelled back to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and stopped in on the street where I grew up. While no trace of the elms remains from that frightful day of destruction, the street tree plantings are now a diverse assemblage of thoughtfully selected American native trees, among them, scarlet (*Q. coccinea*), red (*Q. rubra*), and Shumard (*Q. shumardii*) oaks, all near 60 feet or greater in size. Shade, beauty, comfort, and life have returned.

In this year of introspection, reflection, and hopefulness I leave you with a favorite inspirational quote that encompasses so much of what I find hard to express here but every tree knows for sure.

"Every soul should be put in contact with the mystery that stands stark before us but which we do not apprehend. It is in every leaf, every tender shoot, every opening flower and growing fruit, every pulse of life on the planet. The wonder of life is the greater as our knowledge grows."

Liberty Hyde Bailey, *The Garden Lover* (New York: Macmillan, 1928).

Stay safe, stay healthy.

Timothy M. Boland

Chairman, IOS Oak Conservation and Research Committee

