



International Oaks

The Journal of the International Oak Society

*...the hybrid oak
that time forgot, oak-rod baskets,
pros and cons of grafting...*

Issue No. 25/ 2014 / ISSN 1941-2061



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p. 6: Charles Snyers d'Attenhoven (*Q. oxyodon* Miq.); p. 7: Béatrice Chassé (*Q. acerifolia* (E.J. Palmer)
Stoyloff & W. J. Hess); p. 9: Eike Jablonski (*Q. ithaburensis* subsp. *macrolepis* (Kotschy) Hedge & Yalt.).

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Fruiting *Quercus oxyodon* Miq., Nymans Garden (UK, 2013).

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p. 18, photo caption: Hoperski Forest, Russia

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oaks in a dry climate with warm summers.² Participants in the Post Tour of the 7th IOS Conference (Bordeaux, 2012) will already have seen the consequences of my tempting fate when I wrote, regarding *Quercus delgadoana* S. Valencia, Nixon & L.M. Kelly (previously included in *Q. eugeniifolia* Liebm.), Allen Coombes collection CMBS 219, “untouched by cold or drought since its planting in October 1996.” In February 2012 the coldest weather for 25 years arrived (-13.2 °C/8.2 °F absolute minimum, but with almost two

weeks below freezing point), and although it took some time to fully ascertain the damage, this was virtually the only species that was completely killed—even some meager basal sprouts failed to reestablish. This and the “death” (though today happily resprouting) of a fair sized *Q. franchetii* Skan (shown here) posed some interesting questions regarding hardiness, because both these species had survived lower temperatures as smaller plants further north, notably in Béatrice Chassé’s and Gérard Lionet’s Arboretum des Pouyouleix where -18 °C/-0.4 °F was recorded, and with Jean-Louis Hélarlot a young *Q. delgadoana* also survived -18 °C/-0.4 °F. When the cold weather arrived I had consoled myself with the thought that according to received wisdom the preceding two years of drought would have hardened the wood of my plants to such an extent that they would be more than usually resistant to cold. However, ignoring for a moment that provenance may have been a factor, it would seem that the reverse was true and that the trees had instead been stressed to such an extent by drought that they more readily succumbed. Furthermore, it suggests that the common assumption that established trees are hardier than the young stages may also not be true in every case.

Of other species cut almost to the ground but regenerating were two different provenances of *Q. conspersa* Benth. and a sizeable tree of *Q. acutifolia* Née. Of two specimens of the latter’s hybrid with *Q. mexicana* Bonpl., both from an identical provenance, one was cut back but the other, only slightly higher up the hillside, survived. Of three specimens of *Q. leucotrichophora* A. Camus, the smallest was killed completely, and of two 5-meter/16-foot plants, one was cut to the ground and the other, despite having the same provenance as the plant killed, survived with only twig damage (thus, did size or situation explain this dichotomy?). However, the strangest behavior of all was exhibited by the somewhat tender Mexican *Q. sapotifolia* Liebm. originally planted in 1999. For years it had never shown its head above its surrounding rabbit guard and fleece, so that I had assumed it was dead. In 2012, perversely, it commenced to sprout vigorously. It would seem we still have much to learn about hardiness.

Photographers. Title page: Charles Snyers d'Attenhoven (Arboretum de la Bergerette). Photos 1, 2: Shaun Haddock.

References

1. Shaun Haddock, The Purple Hairstreak—an Oak-Dependent Butterfly, *International Oaks*, 2008. 19: 42-43.
2. Shaun Haddock, Oaks in a Difficult Climate—Arboretum de la Bergerette, *International Oaks*, 2012. 23: 27-40.