

**A SYNOPSIS OF MOTIONS  
INTERNATIONAL OAK SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONAL AND BUSINESS MEETING  
OCTOBER 18, 1994**

All of the members present agreed on the following:

1. The name of the organization will be "International Oak Society".
2. We will be incorporated in the United States under a Non-Profit status (in the near future).
3. The Interim Board of Directors was elected: Board Director - Guy Sternberg; Members - M. Nigel Wright, Peter van der Linden, Amy Larson and Allen Coombes (4 Americans and 1 European). Lisa Wright is the Interim Treasurer. The Interim Board is authorized to prepare proposed by-laws and mission statement for submission to the general membership; to hire an attorney, if necessary, to assist with preparation of incorporation and non-profit status; and to conduct other necessary business of the Society.
4. It will be easiest to process membership renewals on a once-a-year basis. Notice will published when this will go into effect.
5. Each member present must submit their personal suggestion, mission statement, objectives and description of their role as part of this organization. Deadline for this is November 30, 1994.
6. We will be an independent global organization, without affiliation of any other international society.
7. International Oak Society logo was accepted as the official logo of the Society.
8. There will be a formal, organized meeting of the members every three years. The planning committee was elected: Michael Melendrez, Amy Larson and Bill Hess.
9. Membership rates will increase to \$15.00 - one year; \$25 - two years; \$200 - life membership. These dues will be effective January 1, 1995 and can be changed by the Interim Board if need be.
10. We will print several thousand new brochures for general distribution.
11. The first Journal issue will be reprinted within the forthcoming year into the current Journal format.
12. The seed exchange will continue to be a "Pen Pal" type of correspondence, with a list of members who can offer seed and a list of those who want seed. This detailed list will be printed in the Journal.

## LETTER TO MEMBERS

Spring is here -- thousands of rare and wonderful acorns obtained this past fall at "THE MOTHER OF ALL SEED EXCHANGES" held during the first conference of our International Oak Society are sprouting with a fury! Those of you who were able to join us at The Morton Arboretum for the first conference hopefully are faring as well; those who could not be there need not despair, though, because we will feature round two of the exchange at our next conference, in California in 1997!

Many other things are happening behind the scenes with your organization, and I would like to highlight a few of them for you. The five directors you selected in October are working on the proposed projects and activities suggested by members who attended that meeting or who wrote to us with their ideas. We have a carefully constructed set of by-laws nearly ready for ratification by the membership, and we are proceeding with incorporation as a non-profit, tax-exempt/tax-deductible corporation. An attorney specializing in this procedure has been retained for this purpose, and he has agreed to work within a fee cap to protect our treasury. Much attention is being devoted to the study of different membership categories and a multi-level dues structure, so that we will be able to support the programs you have recommended without imposing a financial burden upon our members. We are resolving the boring necessities of tax and insurance issues, budget, and office functions so that you will have a dynamic, functional and responsive organization.

A statement of mission and supporting goals has been digested from your collective input, and is included with this mailing. New membership brochures are being developed. A massive special proceedings issue of the Journal is in preparation, to document the information presented at the first conference, and we will reprint the premier Journal issue, with corrections, in our present standard format, as a collectors' item for binding with later issues.

There is strong interest in developing regional chapters. Members from the United Kingdom are organizing unofficially now, and will be ready to form a chapter as soon as our legal structure is in place. This cannot come too soon, because they have secured space to represent us at the prestigious Chelsea Show this year, and they might host our third triennial conference, three years after the one in California!

The board members are pursuing several other initiatives which will further the organization and the genus. International membership recruitment is being focused upon geographic areas with significant oak floral components and little or no current representation, such as Japan. Seed treatment alternatives are being discussed with the United States Department of Agriculture at the top levels of the Animal and Plant Health Protection Service in Washington, DC; we may conduct experimental treatments yet this coming fall, to identify and implement acceptable alternatives to the standard methyl bromide treatment which is so notorious for killing acorns imported to the United States under legal permit. Other programs proposed for the future, based upon suggestions from members, include worldwide directories of oak nurseries and oak collections; establishment of the International Oak Society as the official registrar for oak cultivar names; scientific documentation of oak cultivars and hybrids through standard herbarium specimens; and establishing a registry database for significant and historic oaks.

Steve Roesch had an idea a few years ago, and the institution he sprouted has taken flight! We proceed almost in awe of this unique opportunity to launch the official society for what is arguably the finest, most diverse and useful genus in the plant kingdom. That no one in decades or centuries past accepted the responsibility to form a society for the study and appreciation of oaks seems absurd! We hope you feel likewise, and share our determination to be worthy of this privilege which fate has saved for us. The initiatives we pursue will need your help and support if they are to succeed; every member has something of value to contribute, and so much to gain by participating.

See you in California in fall 1997 -- start planning now to attend! If you can help with the conference program arrangements, contact Amy Larson at the California Oak Foundation, telephone 510-763-0282.

Guy Sternberg