

OAK NEWS & NOTES

The Newsletter of the International Oak Society
Winter 1999

Volume No. 3, Issue No. 2



Van Bomen Valt Veel Te Leren!

The Netherlands Dendrology Society (*Nederlandse Dendrologische Vereniging*, or NDV) celebrated 75 years with trees this past July by a special symposium on *Quercus* (oaks) and *Fagus* (beech). The symposium was coupled with another milestone event — the completion of 40 years of service on the board of Arboretum Trompenburg by International Oak Society member Dick van Hoey Smith.

International Oak Society president Guy Sternberg participated as our official representative, along with several other members from Holland and other European nations. Theo Janssen, acting president of the NDV,

presided, and Arboretum Board president Yan Mulder ten Kate gave a rousing tribute to Dick's many years of service (at least, we presume it was a tribute — it was spoken in Dutch and followed by applause!).

A series of memorable lectures on *Quercus*, *Fagus*, and *Nothofagus* was presented by four notable authorities: Philippe de Spoelberch of Belgium, James Harris of England, Paul Sondergaard of Denmark, and our host, Dick van Hoey Smith. Guided tours of Arboretum Trompenburg were given in groups divided into Dutch, German, and English speech. A smaller party continued the following day with tours of Arboretum

von Gimborn in Doorn, Holland, and the ancient trees of the nearby estate Huis ten Donk.

Anyone wishing to join the NDV may contact:

Secretariaat, NDV
Antwoordnummer 2303
3940 WB Doorn
Netherlands

It was an event truly worthy of the special anniversary dates being commemorated. We extend our congratulations both to Dick and to the NDV on their years of success!

Guy Sternberg



ABOVE: Oak Society president Guy Sternberg (center) is joined by NDV symposium speakers (left to right) James Gordon Harris, Dick van Hoey Smith, Paul Sondergaard, and Philippe de Spoelberch. (photo by William van Hoey Smith)

Calendar of Events

May 20 -25, 2000

OAK 2000 - Improvement and wood quality and genetic diversity of oaks
Zagreb, Croatia

For additional information contact:

Heinrich Spiecker
Institute for Forest Growth
University of Freiburg
Bertoldstr. 17
D-79085 Freiburg
Germany

October 30-31, 2000

Third International Oak Conference:
North Carolina Arboretum
Asheville, North Carolina

Pre- and Post-Conference field trips are also scheduled.

For additional information contact:

Ron Lance, Conference Chairperson
The North Carolina Arboretum
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Asheville, NC 28816 USA
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OAK OPEN DAYS IN FRANCE A SUCCESS

On October 1 of this year, 35 Society members gathered in Nice, France for the annual Oak Open Days that have been held in Europe for the past 4 years. Members came from 5 continents and a dozen countries and our host, Thierry Lamant, had arranged field trips to oak forests, several arboreta, nurseries and gardens. Thierry also engaged guest speakers and tour guides who updated us on oak genetics, propagation and ethnobotany; in the evenings, some of the members added their own fascinating project reports.

The events began with a welcome by Catherine Ducatillion to the National Institute of Agronomy's Arboretum at La Villa Thuret, and a talk covering the history of the gardens since their creation in 1857. The gardens hold a valuable collection of 2500 species. Principal amongst the *Quercus* is *Q. canariensis*, planted in 1935 and now a quite exceptional tree for its sheer size and stature; a much smaller specimen stood not far away and is believed to be a 'son' of the giant. Attention also focused on *Q. ithaburensis* subsp. *macrolepis*, as well as several *Q. laeta*.

Diverting to the National Institute's restaurant provided an opportunity to see a magnificent flowering *Banksia* and two very large grapefruit trees, laden with fruits. The excellent lunch was followed by a picturesque drive through the mountains to Courmette, near Tourette sur Loup. After going up another 700 m, we parked and walked through stands of *Q. ilex*, *Acer campestre*, *Salix* and *Aesculus*, eventually reaching Chêne à l'Oreille and a *Q. pubescens* with a large ear-shaped burl on the side of the trunk. Further along the Mediterranean coast there was a grove of elderly *Q. ilex*, one a thousand years old, which reminded us of Tolkien, dark and mysterious. We were permitted to visit these ancient trees only by promising to keep their location secret. We also found an interesting gall, looking like sticky toffee, which, Francisco Vazquez named '*Andricus liquicola*'. Some of the *Q. ilex* had single fruits and others great bunches and clusters. *Juniperus oxycedrus*, with its beautiful large orange fruits, was also present.

The walk down the mountain seemed almost vertical, but gave us a spectacular view of Cap d'Antibes. Some made it to the bottom by foot while our enthusiastic host drivers sped up and down the mountain collecting

the others. The bus then took us to La Bergerie at La Colle sur Loup for a relaxing dinner, followed by an illustrated talk by Peter La Harrague on his oaks and land in Argentina, plus a fascinating presentation by Michael Avishai on the Jerusalem Botanic Garden.

The next day we visited the garden and nursery of The Centre Helio-Marin at Vallauris where, among other things, we saw a very attractive *Sorbus domestica* with fruit. The trees at the Centre have all been planted from the nursery to commemorate the births of babies born in the nearby hospital; the plaques therefore bear the name of the tree, the name of a child, and that of the donors.

We were welcomed to The Centre by Yves Chalamel, Director of the Hospital, and by the Mayor of the Town and Pierre Rutten, responsible for creating 'Vallon des Chênes' at Nîmes. Two lectures were given; the first on 'Genetics and post glaciation history of European oaks', by Alexis Ducouso, and the second on 'Current oak propagation methods', by Herve Le Bouler. The lectures were followed by a Champagne reception on a terrace overlooking the Bay of Cap D'Antibes, drenched in sunshine, and a fantastic luncheon prepared and served by the wives and families of our hosts.

Lac de Cassien was our next stop, an area of wet and acidic soil, where we saw a hedgerow of fruiting *Paliuris spina-christi*, *Acer campestre* and seedling oaks. The oaks were mainly *Q. pubescens*, but also included *Q. xhispanica*, also known as *Q. xrenata*, a hybrid between *Q. cerris* and *Q. suber*. There was also a lovely light, airy *Q. pubescens*, with deeply cut leaves, and a large old *Q. xhispanica*, which attracted much interest. Our arrival at Pierrerue, 'Les Saisons' was much delayed, but the dinner was delicious and the local wine superb. Our beds were still several kilometres away, so it was after midnight when we finally reached them.

An early rise on Sunday revealed idyllic surroundings and, after a good breakfast, we drove to the limestone and sandstone chaparral of Adret de Petit Tasson, where we saw *Q. coccifera*, *Q. coccifera* x *Q. ilex* and *Q. rotundifolia*, all bearing acorns.

From here it was on to Hameau de le Laye at Mane, past a beautiful Priory and many variable *Q. pubescens*. One large and very old,

but atypical, specimen gave rise to a lot of discussion and fruits and specimens were collected. A walk in the rain brought us to lunch at the Priory Gardens, eaten under a rush-like sunscreen. In the afternoon, we visited the Vacheres National Forest where *Q. petraea*, *Q. pubescens* and *Q. xstreimii* could be seen growing on sand and limestone, even in the torrential rain!

On the way to 'Les Serres de la Madone' on Monday, there was more stunning scenery. During an unexpected stop in Menton, some of us took cuttings of a very attractive yellow oleander, growing in the street, much to the amazement of some local shoppers. The steep winding hill to the gardens is clearly a challenge to all French drivers and pedestrians take their lives in their hands. But we duly arrived, to be welcomed by Benoit Bourdeau, and we enjoyed, in particular, seeing a *Q. leucotrichophora*, planted some 60 years ago and displaying a rough flaking bark. This specimen now has a circumference of 1.6 m, and at its base, there is a small seedling, which is to be removed to the nursery and planted elsewhere in the garden at a later date. The group divided into English and French speakers for two tours which met at the lake for the official photograph with Guy Sternberg in official regalia.

The final visit in our program was to St. Jean Cap Ferrat where we enjoyed delicious lunch on the waterfront, amongst the exotic yachts and motor boats, before proceeding to La Villa des Cedres, described as the greatest European Garden. This was the work of Julien Marnier-Lapostolle, who had a passion for botany, and it contains a magnificent collection of bamboos, giant cacti and trees draped with epiphytes. There is also an *Araucaria bidwillii* with germinating seeds around its base. Another of his creations was an equatorial forest, with buttons on the tree trunks for switching on the 'rain'!

As with many other parts of the program, we exceeded our time and, although this only made the events more rewarding for us, it has probably ensured that our coach driver will never volunteer to drive *Quercus* fanciers ever again. Our thanks and congratulations must go to Thierry and to the many people who supported him in the planning and execution of 'Oak Open Days 1999', which made the event a truly memorable occasion.

- Dorothy Holley

Points of Contact

As we grow and develop as individuals, we outgrow clothes, houses, and old ideas which served us well in our early lives. So it is with the International Oak Society. We are not yet so large that we can afford a central office and professional staff, so we now have several addresses which should be noted for your future reference:

CLIP AND SAVE THIS LIST!

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BOARD NOMINATIONS

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Final Preparations for Third International Oak Conference Nearly Finished.

In just under a year now, the Third International Oak Conference will take place in Asheville, North Carolina. As noted in previous issues of the Newsletter, the Conference will include formal presentations, field trips, a membership meeting, a seed exchange, a plant sale, and an exhibit/poster session. A registration form will be included in the Spring issue of this Newsletter. It is currently expected that Registration for the meeting will be around \$160.00 for Society members. Field trips will be additional. If you have burning questions about the Conference, please contact Ron Lance. We hope to see many of you there!

THE QUESTIONABLE STATUS OF TWO MEXICAN OAKS

Two taxa of Mexican oaks do not currently have names that reflect their unique status. The first, *Quercus affinis* f. *subintegra* (A.DC.) Trel., is now placed in *Q. affinis* Scheidw. without any differentiation. A description under f. *subintegra* is given in 'The American Oaks' by William Trelease in 1924 and is based on specimens collected near Zacualtipan in Hidalgo State. In 1984 I collected acorns of this form in the same area. From this collection I have two specimens which also answer to Trelease's description of f. *subintegra*. Second generation seedlings are showing the same leaf details which are different than those of *Q. affinis* specimens raised from seed collected further south.

The second, *Quercus ocoteifolia* Lieb. is now placed in *Q. laurina* Bonpl., again without any differentiation. This was also

described by Trelease under *Q. ocoteifolia*. A later synonym is *Q. laurina* var. *ocoteifolia* (Liebm.) Wenz. In 1985, near Omitlan, Hidalgo, I collected acorns from a tree answering to Trelease's description of *Q. ocoteifolia*. Again the resulting specimens are true to type although the normal form of *Q. laurina* also grows in the area within cross-pollination distance. Also seedlings raised from my specimens are showing signs of being true to type, despite *Q. laurina* flowering nearby.

From my experience I consider that the type consistency shown by these two taxa would seem to warrant some form of distinction in their nomenclature.

Bob Berry
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Letter to the Editor

Thank you for including the article describing the Millennium Oak Planting Project here in Moray, Scotland, in the last issue of *Oak News and Notes*. Subsequent contact with Angela Oatridge has revealed a desire on her part to encourage the children here to continue oak plantings in successive years, well into the new century, thereby enlarging the 'Burghead Forest'. To help out with this proposal, I intend to continue growing oak seedlings of indigenous species.

Could I request members world-wide to help this worthwhile and ambitious scheme by sending a few acorns to me of any species thought to be hardy enough for the area, which I will gladly grow in order to supply seedlings each year. Moray, which benefits from the influence of the Gulf Stream, has a climate somewhat milder than some areas further south in North East Scotland, giving, it is said, at least three weeks to a month more of summer-season weather.

If it is also possible to send acorns from Heritage trees, accompanied by their legend, I know that Angela will arrange for these to be suitably labeled, as will all the plantings. Further, details of the parentage will be kept in a record book of the trees planted, as will the names of all of the children involved in that planting. An enquiry at the Edinburgh Customs Office advised that there is no restriction on the import of acorns into Scotland. They suggested that the customs declaration indicate '*Quercus Seed*'.

Ted Munyard. 'The Ferns' Hillbrae,
Methlic. Ellon. Aberdeenshire.
Scotland. AB41 7HE.

In Memoriam

We were saddened by the death this past April 22 of International Oak Society member Augustin Stanciu of Deva, Romania, following a long illness. Augustin was a personable and brilliant man who studied and cataloged western Transylvania's Forest Bejan, one of the world's greatest sites for natural oak hybridization. We hope to publish some of his research in a future issue of *International Oaks*. Our sympathies are extended to his widow Erika.

BACK ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL OAKS SOCIETY JOURNAL NOW AVAILABLE

For those of you who are recent members of the International Oak Society, long-standing members who misplaced or gave away early issues of the Journal, or who simply want additional copies of previous Journals to present as gifts, it is now possible to order all back issues of *International Oaks*. Information about ordering, as well as the subjects that are addressed in each issue, can be viewed on our web page at:

<http://www.saintmarys.edu/~rjensen/iospubs.html>.

A partial list (describing issues 2-7) may also be found on page 30 of issue # 8. All

issues are \$5.50 each, including postage, except for the two issues (# 6 & # 9) that are the Proceedings of International Oak Society Conferences, which are \$9.50 each. Orders should be sent to:

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Membership Directory Updates

Early next year updated membership information will be mailed to all International Oak Society members. This will include a listing of all new members and any changes of addresses, telephone numbers, etc. of current members. If you wish to change or add information to your listing, please forward these changes/additions to Richard Jensen (Dept. of Biology, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN 46556, USA; rjensen@saintmarys.edu) before January 15, 2000.

Advertising Policy:

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