PHOTO GALLERY OF THE
2003 OAK CONFERENCE

Pre-conference Tour, Netherlands and Belgium

Oak legend Dick van Hoey Smith leads the tour of Trompenburg Arboretum

(© Guy Sternberg)

Incoming President Eike Jablonski presents an oak tree to one of our hosts, Maarten Bomer, at Bomer Nursery

(© Mike Tyner)
Michel Decalut leads the rainy tour of his famous Arboretum Waasland

(© Mike Tyner)
Our host city, historic Winchester on the Itchen River

(© RJ Fehl)
The conference was held at King Alfred College  

(© Guy Sternberg)
Every meal at KAC was fantastic!

The head table at the banquet with Oak Society Vice-President Allen Coombes, the Mayor of Winchester Mrs. Jean Hammerton, retiring Oak Society President Ron Lance, and Lord Michael Heseltine.
Enjoying the meal and the company: Illinois photographer Mike Tyner, founding Oak Society member Stephane Brame of France, Hilliers Arboretum Director Simon Milne, Belgian Dendrology Society President Philippe de Spoelberch, Mrs. Francoise Milne, Conference Committee member James Harris, and retiring Oak Society Vice President Thierry Lamant of France

(© Guy Sternberg)
A gift from our Spanish delegation – Licor de Bellota (acorn liquor) for everyone!  
(© Mike Tyner)

President Ron Lance prepares to introduce banquet speaker Lord Heseltine  
(© Mike Tyner)
Ron Lance (at right) presents awards to Guy Sternberg (Lifetime Service Award), Diana Gardener (Special Service Award), and Rudy Light (Special Service Award) for their many contributions to the success of the organization. (© Mike Tyner)

Ed Holm, who was unable to attend the conference, proudly holds his Special Service Award under the Holm oak (Quercus ilex) in his yard in Redwood City, California

(© Mike Tyner)
Your Oak Society Board of Directors from 2000-2003, the business meeting at Sir Harold Hillier Arboretum. (Pictured from left to right) Eike Jablonski, Dorothy Holley, Guy Sternberg, Ron Lance, Maricella Rodriguez-Coombes, Allen Coombes, Thierry Lamant, Doug McCreary.

The seed exchange was smaller this year due to the early season, but nevertheless another grab-fest!

(© Mike Tyner)
President Ron Lance planted the ceremonial oak tree at our host facility, the Sir Harold Hillier Arboretum.

Your new Oak Society President for 2003-2006, Eike Jablonski of Luxembourg, emerging from a great oak tree in his native country, Germany.
POST-CONFERENCE TOUR,
United Kingdom

Illinoisan R. J. Fehl watches in disbelief as all sorts of traffic approach our bus driving on the “wrong” (left) side of the road!

(© Guy Sternberg)

Mike Tyner proudly models his conference shirt while taking a break under one of the huge oaks at Windsor Great Park

(© Guy Sternberg)
Right: David Gvianidze used his conference tote bag to carry many seeds back to his arboretum in the Republic of Georgia

(© RJ Fehl)

Below: Guy Sternberg lingers behind the group to experience the spirit of the 2.5 meter Vederer's Oak (*Quercus robur*) in the Forest of Dean

(© Mike Tyner)
We saw much more than just oak trees – this great cypress tree was planted in the 19th Century at Tregrehan

© Guy Sternberg

As she left the UK tour early, Margaret Miles of Cornwall routed this card around the bus together with a large bag of delicious Cornwall fudge, to be shared by all North American participants in honor of the wartime contributions of their fathers and grandfathers. It was deeply appreciated, and served as a fitting emblem of the camaraderie of every oak conference.

A message to all North American delegates to 105 Conference - 2003

17 September 2003

As a small child, from 1940-1945, I lived next to a Canadian/U.S. hospital camp. For five years the only sweets we tasted were those given to us by the Canadian and U.S. troops. I think it is now time for pay-back!

So, in recognition of the generosity of your fellow countrymen and women, and the sacrifices they made, and also the friendships made on this conference - please enjoy the enclosed, small taste of Cornwall.

I wish you a safe journey home and look forward to meeting you all again sometime, Margaret Miles.

Margaret Miles of Cornwall passed fudge throughout the bus for the North American participants (and everyone else as well!) in appreciation for what their countries did to help her family in Cornwall during World War II – this gesture exemplifies the spirit of the group
The famous Billy Wilkins Oak (*Quercus robur*) at Melbury. Note the tour group dwarfed underneath!

(© Guy Sternberg)

Arriving at Chevithorne Barton, the home and arboretum of our member and generous benefactor Michael Heathcoat Amory and his wife Arabella

(© Guy Sternberg)
Michael Amory has assembled one of the most comprehensive young oak collections in the world, and rigorously protects every tree from livestock and deer.

The famous video camera of Dan "Oakman" Keiser captured the presentation of a tree by returning Vice President Allen Coombes to Michael Amory at the conclusion of our visit to Chevithorne — watch for Dan’s growing collection of videos from previous conferences when we meet in 2006 in Texas.
Part of the tour group pauses under the Plague Oak (dated back to the Plague years of the 1600s) at Westonbirt Arboretum. Conference participants came from England, the Channel Islands, Ireland, Scotland, Austria, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, Spain, Turkey, China, Georgia, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, USA, and Israel.

(Photo © Westonbirt Arboretum)