Letter from the Editor

The premier issue of this journal, published this past spring, already has generated nearly 100 subscriptions! Thanks to all of you who have made the commitment to support this effort with your checkbooks. However, after the enthusiasm and energy of the premier issue, we found that the second publication was another story all together. From a promising debut, we were confronted with a familiar problem: ... What to do next? Letters of correspondence were written to hopeful, future authors, time was taken from an already full schedule, but unfortunately not much help with this journal has been received. We, nonetheless, put together some good material to have an interesting publication that would be of help to all of our readers.

Our second problem: time! As we waited in hopes of future journal articles, etc. to appear in the postbox, time got away from us. We planned to have this issue coincide with the acorn harvest and a large seed exchange. However, the seed requests were few and far between and did not merit a full portion in this issue, which was our intention.

We can not stress enough the fact that the International Oak Society is an organization of members, who are genuinely interested in the *Quercus* genus and would like to share their enthusiasm with other members; a vehicle for sharing experiences, meeting people and learning more about oaks. We hope to provide more scientific studies in the future, but this society, like many others, is dependent upon member participation. This can be achieved in many ways: stories, descriptions, pictures, negatives, slides, etc... basically share your experiences. Let us learn from each other.

My wife, Lisa, and I are members of other organizations in the horticultural field and in a sense, successful organizations are about... Gossip. A strong word to use, perhaps, but the social conventions, gatherings and publications are basically people of a similar interest coming together and discussing their experiences. These conversations are invaluable, and never petty or boring. How a certain plant performs in one person's garden can vary from another, the starting point of conversation has begun, and the topics start to flow: how did they plant it?; what is its soil situation?; how did they fertilize it?; what is its growth over a certain period of time? In our type of organization, we might not have a 500-year specimen in our garden (we have to be a little more patient than members of the Daylily Society), but there might be a venerable tree in our vicinity that is of interest, historically and horticulturally. Share your experiences!

Perhaps we are being a little impatient in our expectations from the first issue. There is a period of time needed for word to get around. But we don't want to disappoint our members who have generously given us a try and are anticipating the next issue. There are many things involved with doing this project, like brochures and information packets that must be attended to, not to mention postage and thank you cards. We won't bore you with details; just keep in mind that we are still only a two-person team with full-time jobs. We try our best to keep on top of things, but we need your help.... if you will contribute your articles, letters, and wisdom, we pledge to keep publishing and improving the Journal.