

International Oaks

The Journal of the International Oak Society

Proceedings

8th International Oak Society Conference October 18-21, 2015



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Issue No. 27/ 2016 / ISSN 1941-2061



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Cover illustration. Wendy Brockman (Quercus palustris).

Photos. p. 9: James MacEwen (Michael Heathcoat Amory); p. 10: Guy Sternberg (8th International Oak Society Conference participants); p. 11: Charles Snyers d'Attenhoven (Quercus stellata); p. 13: Béatrice Chassé (Q. ×fernowii).

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Table of Contents

—/ 11 /—

Foreword Twenty-one Years After Charles Snyers d'Attenhoven

> **—/ 13 /—** Preface From Small Acorns Sara Oldfield

> > **—/ 15 /—** Introduction

Oak Research in 2015: a Snapshot from the IOS Conference Andrew L. Hipp

—/ 23 /—

Systematics and Biogeography of the American Oaks Paul S. Manos

—/ 37 /—

Diversity, Distribution and Ecosystem Services of the North American Oaks Jeannine Cavender-Bares

___ 49 /__

Drought Tolerance and Climatic Distributions of the American Oaks Matthew Kaproth and Jeannine Cavender-Bares

—/ 61 /—

Phylogeny and Introgression of California Scrub White Oaks (Quercus section Quercus) Victoria L. Sork, Erin Riordan, Paul F. Grugger, Sorell Fitz-Gibbon, Xinzeng Wei, and Joaquín Ortego

____/ 75 /___

A Tough Little Survivor: The West Texas Oak, Quercus hinckleyi Janet Rizner Backs

—/ 83 /—

Landscape and Conservation Genetics of the Island Oak, Quercus tomentella Mary V. Ashley, Janet R. Backs, and Saji T. Abraham

—/ 91 /—

Hybridization and Adaptive Divergence in Oaks Olivier Gailing and Jennifer Riehl

—/ 99 /—

Asexual Propagation of Oak Hybrids: Our Progress, and the Challenges of Producing Clonal Plants
Nina L. Bassuk, Bryan R. Denia, and Miles Schwartz Sax

—/ 107 /—

Eating Acorns: What Story do the Distant, Far, and Near Past Tell Us, and Why?

Béatrice Chassé

—/ 137 /—

New and Lesser-Known Cultivars 2013-2015 Ryan Russell and Eike Jablonski

—/ 149 /—

Anther Culture of Turkey Oak (Quercus cerris)

Joseph Rothleutner

—/ 155 /—

The Plant Collections Network and the Quercus Multisite Collection $Greg\ Paige$

—/ 163 /—

Rescuing Plant Species with Extremely Small Populations in China: the Case of the Xichou oak, $Quercus\ sichourensis$

Weibang Sun, Zhekou Zhou, Wenyun Chen, Yuan Zhou, Lei Cai, Murphy Westwood, and Jessica Turner

—/ 171 /—

Conservation of *Quercus arbutifolia*, a Rare Oak, from Southern China's Montane Cloud Forests *Min Deng, Xu Jun, Yi-Gang Song, and Xiao-Long Jiang*

—/ 181 /—

A Genetic Map for the *Lobatae*

Arpita Konar, Olivia Choudury, Oliver Gailing, Mark V. Coggeshall, Margaret E. Staton, Scott Emrich, John E. Carlson, and Jeanne Romero-Severson

—/ 189 /—

Development of New Genomic Resources for Northern Red Oak, *Quercus rubra Christopher R. Heim, Mark V. Coggeshall, Arpita Konar, and Jeanne Romero-Severson*

—/ 195 /—

Sustaining Oaks in the Chicago Region Landscape: Developing a Plan for Maintaining Oak
Dominance in an Urban Landscape
Lindsay Darling and Robert T. Fahey

—/ 207 /—

Pathfinder: the Last Prairie Sentinel Guy Sternberg

—/ 217 /—

Oaks in Puebla: Growing Successes and Failures, and New Research Topics Maricela Rodríguez-Acosta, Allen J. Coombes, Carlos A. Paredes-Contreras, Stephanie Fernández-Velázquez, and Citlali Guevara-González

—/ 227 /—

Searching for the Hardy Southern Live Oak Anthony Aiello **—/ 233 /—**

The Last Basketmaker: Indiana's Forgotten History of Oak-Rod Baskets Jon Kay

—/ 245 /—

Are Resource Dynamics a Necessity for Oak Masting? Ian Pearse

—/ 255 /—

Preserving Oak (Quercus sp.) Germplasm to Promote Ex-Situ Conservation Christina Walters, Lisa Hill, Jennifer Crane, Marcin Michalak, Xia Ke, Jeffrey Carstens, Kevin Conrad, Murphy Westwood, Alison Colwell, Joanna Clines, and Pawel Chmielarz

—/ 267 /—

The Pace of Microevolution of European Oaks During Environmental Changes Antoine Kremer

—/ 277 /—

Launching the Global Oak Conservation Initiative at The Morton Arboretum Lisa Kenny and Murphy Westwood

—/ 290 /—

Workshops

—/ 305 /—

Poster Sessions

—/ 343 /—

Pre-Conference Tour Roderick Cameron

—/ 364 /—

The Morton Arboretum Charles Snyers d'Attenhoven

—/ 375 /—

Post-Conference Tour James Hitz

-/ 390 /--

International Oak Society Service Awards

-/ 392 /--

First International Oak Society Silent Auction



Quercus aliena (Chicago Botanic Garden).

Documenting *Quercus* at the Chicago Botanic Garden

Boyce Tankersley, Andrew Bunting, and Andrew Bell Chicago Botanic Garden Glencoe, IL 60022, USA

The genus *Quercus* is one of the special collections of focus at the Chicago Botanic Garden. As a member of the multi-site *Quercus* collections of the North American Plant Collections Consortium of the American Public Gardens Association, documentation of all aspects of this collection is a priority.

The living collection currently consists of 184 accessions representing 64 taxa and 1,131 plants. An additional 8 taxa and 59 accessions are represented by images, herbarium and DNA vouchers of taxa not part of the living collection.

In an effort to support scientific studies of this collection, the Living Plant Documentation staff and volunteers at CBG collect, document and maintain accurate inventories, maps, labels, accession tags, herbarium vouchers, DNA vouchers, and digital images (of diagnostic characteristics) for each accession.

- Images of 11 different views for each accession are shared outside the Garden using an application called Smugmug that enables taxonomic experts to comment/annotate the images remotely.
- DNA vouchers are collected and stored to support requests from outside the institution.
- 3 herbarium vouchers are collected for both vegetative and reproductive features.
- Each specimen has a unique accession tag allowing for latitude and longitude coordinates to be captured with ESRI ArcGIS software.
- 4 staff and 85 volunteers support different aspects of this project.

(Boyce Tankersley is Director of Living Plant Documentation; Andrew Bunting is the Assistant Director of Chicago Botanic Garden and Director of Plant Collections; Andrew Bell is Woody Plant Curator.)

Quercus at Chicago Botanic G

Emily Russell, Frank Balestri, Veronica Harry-Jack Chicago Botani

Fig. 3. Aerial viev

Botanic Garden. Red dots indicate

individuals of

Quercus in the

of Chicago

Introduction

The genus *Quercus* is one of the special collections of focus at the Chicago Botanic Garden. As a member of the multi-site *Quercus* collection of the North American Plant Collections Consortium, documentation and curation of this collection is a priority.

The living collection of *Quercus* currently consists of 184 accessions representing 63 taxa and 1,131 plants. There are 59 non-living accessions of images, herbarium and DNA vouchers that include eight taxa not currently part of the living collection. Also on the property are seven taxa of *Quercus* naturally occurring in the McDonald Woods, 100 acres of restored oak/hickory woodland.

All aspects of these accessions are carefully documented for the use of Garden staff, researchers at other institutions, and the general public. The condition of individual trees is monitored and maintained, and new threats such as climate change are analyzed for impacts. As a guardian of *Quercus* germplasm, emphasis is placed on acquisition and preservation of rare taxa.

Documentation

In an effort to support scientific studies of the *Quercus* collection, the Living Plant Documentation staff and volunteers at CBG maintain accurate inventories, maps, labels, accession tags, herbarium vouchers, DNA vouchers, and digital images of diagnostic characteristics for each accession.

 Images of 11 different views of each accession are shared outside the Garden using an application called Smugmug that enables taxonomic experts to annotate the images remotely (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Images of one accession of Quercus dentata in Smugmug

- DNA vouchers are collected and stored to support requests from outside the institution.
- Three herbarium vouchers are collected for both vegetative and reproductive features (Fig. 2). Images of herbarium vouchers are uploaded to www.sciencecollections.org.
- Each specimen has a unique identification number allowing its latitude and longitude coordinates to be captured on garden maps using ESRI ArcGIS software (Fig. 3).
- Photos, plant locations, and basic cultural information can be viewed on the PlantFinder app at www.chicagobotanic garden.org/plantcollections#plantfinder.
- A complete collections inventory is uploaded to Botanic Gardens Conservation International annually.
- Four staff and 85 volunteers support different aspects of documentation.

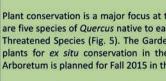
Fig. 2. Image of

of Quercus alba

herbarium voucher



Q. gambelii ×macrocarpa Q. glandulifera



Q. glandulifera var. brevipetiolata Q. robur

Q. robur 'Fast

Future collection trips also targeting Chicagoland area, Wabash Valley, Ozark

In addition to wild-collected germplasm cultivars and commercially-available h heritage, commerce, and culture, and for street trees and urban plantings, a landscape architecture.

rden: Documentation and Curation

, Dr. Andrew Bell, Boyce Tankersley, and Andrew Bunting orden, Glencoe, IL 60022



Living Collection

mbellii

- Q. robur 'JFS-KW2QX'
- Q. robur 'Purpurascens'
- Q. robur 'Purpurea'
- Q. robur 'Variegata'
- Q. robur ×alba 'JFS-KW1QX'
- Q. robur × bicolor 'Nadler'
- O. rubra
- O. serrata
- aotungensis Q. shumardii
 - Q. shumardii yat. schnecki
 - Q. sp.
 - Q. stellata
 - Q. variabilis
 - Q. velutina
 - 2000
 - Q. × bimundorum 'Crimschmidt'
 - Q. ×f ernowi
 - Q. × jackiana
 - Q. ×macdaniellii 'Clemons'
 - Q. ×warei 'Long'

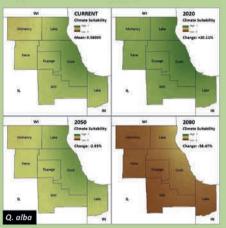
Curatorial Practice and Research

The Curator of Woody Plants manages the development and preservation of the *Quercus* collection for display, research and education. A grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services from 2011-2013 supported a curatorial review of the collection and new research into the potential effects of climate change on 52 taxa of trees.

Health assessments were conducted on all trees in the display gardens, noting pest, disease, environmental, cultural, and structural problems. Leaf scorch, chlorosis, and girdling roots were the most common problems noted among the *Quercus*. 18 oak trees were found to be in poor condition and of these, four accessions were propagated to preserve valuable germplasm.

Garden staff developed climate change models to aid in the management of the tree collection and to create an adaptive planting list for the City of Chicago. Projections were made with MaxEnt Species Distribution Modeling for the decades 2020, 2050, and 2080 using temperature and precipitation data from a high emissions scenario (Fig. 4).

Fig. 4. Projections of climate suitability for Quercus alba in the Chicago region using temperature and precipitation data from A2 high emissions climate scenario



Quercus alba, Q. bicolor, Q. imbricaria, Q. robur 'Fastigiata', and Q. rubra were included in the climate change study. All five of these taxa retained 80% or more climate suitability in the Chicago region in the 2050s, and can be recommended for plantings with an expected lifespan of 35-60 years. However, none of these taxa retained 50% or more climate suitability for the decade 2080, a threshold used to recommend "legacy" plantings. More results of this study are available at www.chicagobotanic.org/plantinfo/tree_alternatives.

Future Acquisitions

thicago Botanic Garden. Targeted for acquisition North America that are on the IUCN Red List of ill collect and propagate germplasm from these rden. A joint collection trip with the Morton utheastern United States.

ks native to North America will include the d Daniel Boone National Forest.

Garden collects and preserves

ds of *Quercus*. These plants are significant for be used for breeding new selections, research as a reference for students of horticulture and



Fig. 5. County-level distribution maps of five species of *Quercus* of conservation concern native to eastern North America