

## Letter from the President

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Ron Lance

Chimney Rock Park  
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No doubt some of you were wondering where your journal had journeyed this year. Now that you have it in hand, let me pass along my apologies for its lateness, and gratitude for your patience. Like the oaks we all admire, patience and endurance are indeed virtues to take pride in.

This issue has survived arduous hours of editing, revisions, formatting, and other various maneuvers in the publishing process, finally delivered amid some mid-stream changes in our publishing and printing firms. The current issue reflects a renewed commitment to the publication of *International Oaks*, using a new publisher and printer that is expected to streamline future issues and reach all members in a more predictable schedule.

Within this issue you will find some worthwhile reading, even if your interest in oaks is casual. Of course, that description doesn't apply to most of us, but if you do happen to know someone who is 'casually interested', loan them this issue and see what they think about this oak booklet. They may be interested to learn of the close association of oaks and livestock to a large part of the Spanish countryside, or of the significance of *Armillaria* fungi to all forests, or of the rapidly developing knowledge of a new pathogen that affects several plant species (not just oaks) in California. Or, they might enjoy a military history story that involves an incidental oak in its telling, or a valuable, detailed account of some of Europe's most significant forests. These and other articles are presented in this issue with the hope that everyone who picks up this publication will find some enlightening reading.

Members of the International Oak Society are reminded that we have two international events in the near future. The Oak Open Days is set to happen in Turkey in October 2002, and our next Triennial Conference is approaching, in 2003, in the United Kingdom. Keep your membership viable and check the website regularly for developing details. If you can find the finances and time to make either of these trips, you will not regret it! Look for information about these events in the newsletter, via your regular mail if you are a member, or on the website. And, concerning the Fourth Conference in 2003, as members we have some important items to address at our membership meeting there, regarding membership categories and board officer terms. Your vote, whether by attendance or proxy, is important. Details are forthcoming.

All members, please consider how you can contribute to each other's knowledge about oaks. Do you have a potential article to submit, or know just who to ask about submitting one? Contact Doug McCreary of the Editorial Office to make it happen. And, just as I sit here looking out my office window at an oak forest adorning a mountainside, I realize that each of our accustomed, everyday images of oaks and our oak-related activities are of high interest to other members, if we take the time to share them in print.

Ron Lance  
President  
International Oak Society