

Introduction from the Editors

We always have tried to include a mix of scholarly work, general interest articles, and inspirational and informative illustrations. We are proud to do so again with this, the landmark twentieth issue of our journal.

You will find the now-traditional photo gallery, this time featuring our first Asian oak species. There will be intrigue, with a continuation of the controversy about the true identity of *Quercus ellipsoidalis* provided by Dave Shepard's decades of research. (For comparative background and another view, see Issue No. 18, pages 65-74.) We have the introduction of a new species by Allen Coombes, and molecular work by Lucia Vazquez. Then we provide profiles of some more ancient oaks, this time in Sweden (by Stefan Foconi) and in Russia (by Gennady Firsov).

Nurseryman Dirk Benoit gives us the basics of oak grafting, and APGA committee chairperson Emily Griswold presents the member oak collections and procedures of NAPCC. Rob Guest tells us more about a historic landmark date in the Forest of Dean. Bill Guion traces the oldest remaining oaks in the Live Oak Society. There also is more information about the hybrid complex involving *Quercus macrocarpa* in isolated stands peripheral to the native range, from the ongoing field work of Tim Buchanan and Allan Taylor. We are truly an organization of talented, energetic, knowledgeable people!

Finally, please see the reproduction of our new web site home page, with the conference announcement appended, on the inside cover. Our secretary and several other people have given a huge amount of their time and work to make this happen, so all members should become familiar with it and register. This is the window to our future. See <http://internationaloaksociety.org>. Members are invited to contribute to the web site by using the Create Content, found on the upper right-hand side of the screen. Contact Béatrice Chassé at arboretum.pouyouleix@wanadoo.fr with any questions.

We hope there will be something for everyone here. And we hope that you, our loyal Oak Society members and friends, will help us find additional noteworthy topics and authors for future issues of this journal. We must begin our work a year in advance to prepare this publication, so it's never too early to start sending us material. Please forward your papers, ideas, comments, and suggestions to us at: Guy@StarhillForest.com.

We are always grateful for volunteers. If you would like to help with copy editing, mailing, or other publication work, or just want to make a donation to help cover costs involved in printing the Oak Journal, please tell us that as well.

Hoping to see many of you in Puebla, Mexico this fall . . . and for those who really can't be there, we will try to bring as much of the conference as possible to you via the next journal issue.

– Guy Sternberg and Ron Lance