

Oak News & Notes

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL OAK SOCIETY, VOLUME 12, NOS. 1-2, SUMMER 2008

Bur Oak Canyon Symposium Scheduled for Sept. 8-9, 2008

Welcome! This event will be an exciting two-day symposium that will feature one day in the classroom, an evening cook-out, and will conclude with a field trip to Bur Oak Canyon on day two. The classes will be held on the campus of **McCook Community College** in McCook Nebraska. Monday morning will consist of a pre-workshop and a dissection lab* conducted by **Jack Phillips** - who studied at the feet, and was a close friend, of the late Dr. Alex Shigo.

The people who will be making presentations during the classroom portion include:

Guy Sternberg, a founding life member, past president, and journal editor for the *International Oak Society*, on "The Majesty and Diversity of Bur Oak."

Tim Buchanan, Ft. Collins Colorado city forester and *International Oak Society* member, will be making a presentation on the "Theories of Past Oak Migration and Hybridization in the Central High Plains and Rocky Mountain Regions."

Jim Goeke is a hydrogeologist with the University of Nebraska. Jim is a tree steward who will explain to us what we are looking at when we see Bur Oak Canyon. How was the canyon formed? Where does the water come from that we see in the canyon springs? How were these millions of years-old caliche outcroppings formed? Jim Goeke has the answers.

Nancy Carlson has a degree in Anthropology/ Archaeology and has spent her entire adult life studying the Native Americans of the plains of Nebraska and surrounding regions. Nancy will present to us the Native American Presence in the Bur Oak Canyon Area and

Continued on page 5, col. 1

WANTED! Candidates for the 2009 Board Elections

Members of the International Oak Society are fortunate to be invited to the beautiful Mexican city of Puebla for our Sixth Triennial Conference, to be held October 20-22, 2009. Every three years the entire Board of Directors is newly selected by the general membership, so during the months prior to the conference we will conduct the Board election by mail.

The Election Committee is therefore now asking members to consider — and submit the names of — potential candidates for the Board. The Society seeks to have an active Board made up of individuals that represent the international character and the diverse interests and skills of the membership. Because we have no paid staff, the volunteer Board and its committees perform all duties required for proper functioning of the organization. Candidates for Board positions should be members in good standing with the desire to serve the Society by working with others toward furthering our common goal of appreciation and preservation of the genus *Quercus* and its ecosystems.

Since its birth in 1992, the International Oak Society has grown and flourished under the leadership, vision, and hard work of a few individuals. Their determination and passion has brought us to where we are today and new Board members, equally dedicated, are needed to ensure the bright future of the International Oak Society. Several key functions — specifically those of Membership Director and Inventory Management - that have been fulfilled by the same individuals for many years now, will be vacant: So — more than ever, the Society needs you!

If you are seriously prepared to devote some of your time and energy and want to do so by serving as a Director, or if you know someone who would like the opportunity to make this contribution, please contact any Board member or the Election Committee. Candidates are asked to send a brief resume along with a letter of intention explaining why they would like to be a Board member and in what areas they would like to contribute. Future lines of development for the International Oak Society include promoting information sent in by members to the new website (see article in this issue, page 3), increasing

Continued on page 3, col. 1

Oak Images Wanted

In the coming issue of *International Oaks* we would like to include another oak image gallery, this time featuring a prominent Asian oak species. We currently are considering *Quercus dentata*, but we would reconsider if we receive a good collection of photos and illustrations of a different (and well known) Asian species. Please send all images to Guy Sternberg at Guy@StarhillForest.com or, if large files (on CD), duplicate transparencies, or prints, via postal mail to Starhill Forest Arboretum, 12000 Boy Scout Trail, Petersburg, Illinois 62675, before October 2008. Please review any recent issue to see the type and range of illustrations needed. Help us share your view of oaks worldwide!



Send your photos & illustrations!

IOS Point of Contact



Membership Renewals or Applications:
Richard J. Jensen
Department of Biology
Saint Mary's College,
Notre Dame, IN 46556 USA
Tel: 574-284-4674
Fax: 574-284-4716
E-mail: rjensen@saintmarys.edu

Submittals for the Newsletter:
Doug McCreary, Chair
Newsletter Editorial Committee
8279 Scott Forbes Road
Browns Valley, CA 95918 USA
Tel: 530-639-8807
Fax: 530-639-2419
E-mail: mccreary@nature.berkeley.edu

Submittals for Journal:
Guy Sternberg, Co-chair
Journal Editorial Committee

Starhill Forest Arboretum
12000 Boy Scout Trail
Petersburg, IL 62675 USA
Tel: 217-632-3685
E-mail: Guy@StarhillForest.com

Ron Lance, Co-chair
Chimney Rock Park Nursery
P.O. Box 39
Chimney Rock, NC 28720 USA
Tel: 828-265-4039
Fax: 828-265-9610
E-mail: ronwlance@charter.net

European Contact:
Eike Jablonski
No. 6a, L-9456 Hoesdorf
LUXEMBOURG
Tel: 352-836297
Fax: 352-816481
E-mail: eike.jablonski@education.lu

Oak News & Notes
The Newsletter of the International Oak Society
8279 Scott Forbes Road
Browns Valley, CA 95918 USA

President: Allen Coombes Vice-President: Guy Sternberg
Treasurer: William Hess Newsletter Editor: Doug McCreary
Journal Editors: Guy Sternberg and Ron Lance

Zipset
Planting System
The best deep cell propagation containers & trays for your oak seedlings
Call for free samples
800-284-0390
or visit our web site for complete information:
www.monarchmfg.com
MONARCH MANUFACTURING, INC.

The Prairie Arts
cards, prints/ custom designs
inspired by native landscapes

P.O. Box 6, Hinsdale, IL 60522 (630) 887-8375 www.ThePrairieArts.com



Continued from page 1, col. 2

Wanted— Candidates

membership, developing fund-raising campaigns to help with *Quercus* research and conservation efforts around the world, and more. Candidates with placement, institutional support, or skills that can contribute to specific administrative functions are especially encouraged to apply.

We look forward to receiving suggestions that will maintain the quality of the Society as an organisation. It should be noted that many individuals contribute greatly to the Society without being Board members: Rudy Light, for example, who managed the triennial Board elections for many years and his “replacement” Diana Gardener, who took over in 2006, or those who organise the triennial conferences, such as David Richardson, the most recent example, for the Texas 2006 Conference. Active participation in the life of the Society can be in many forms. New ideas are welcome -- just let us know what your vision of the Society is!

Given the great distances that usually separate Board members, candidates need to have an e-mail address and be willing to communicate in this way. Correspondence regarding candidates and the election should be sent to any Board member (contact information can be found in your Membership Directory or on the web site), or to Diana Gardener:

Diana Gardener, Election Committee
Chairperson
P.O. Box 284
Silverton, Oregon 97381
USA
e-mail:
quercusgardener@earthlink.net

Thank you!



New Web Site to Be On Line Soon

Currently being tested in its pilot form by Board members - with lots of assistance and input from IOS member and IT specialist, Charles Snyers (Belgium) - the new International Oak Society web site (<http://internationaloaksociety.org>) will soon be on-line. Many thanks are due to Richard Jensen who has been responsible for the creation and maintenance of the original IOS site as webmaster for many years.

Built on the principle of a “community of users”, the new site will offer many exciting possibilities for members to contribute directly information on their *Quercus* collections, seeds/plants available for exchange, news items, events announcements, etc... as well as be able to ask questions about cultivation, propagation and any other *Quercus*-related matters that our experts can answer. The aim of the new web site is not simply to have a new web site but rather to bring the membership closer together and to facilitate information collection to help advance many of the basic goals of the International Oak Society. No longer dependent on one person acting as webmaster, the site will be rich and dynamic to the extent that members are willing to share their knowledge and experience.

Your first step to assess the site: If you are a paid-up member already, all you have to do is choose your membership subscription and create your account. For example, if you have subscribed a two-year membership which expires on 31 December 2008, you

simply click on this “product” which appears as a choice in the “Becoming a Member” procedure. No payment will be required of you until your current membership expires, at which time you will automatically receive an e-mail (or postal message if you prefer) informing you of the renewal date. New members simply choose the membership subscription they desire from the choices which appear in the “Becoming a Member” procedure and are then required to pay their membership fee. The web site does not include an electronic payment system, so payment must still be sent to the Membership Director, who, upon receiving it, will validate the new account.

If you have an e-mail address but do not like communicating in this way, you can indicate this when you create your account and will then continue receiving correspondence from the Society through regular postal mail. If you do not have an e-mail address, but would like to have access to the web site, all you will have to do is contact the Membership Director who can then easily create a “phantom” e-mail address for you (in other words, an e-mail address which only exists for the purposes of registering you on the website).

Continued on page 4, col. 2



www.harrietblum.com Covington, Louisiana USA



Sixth International Oak Society Conference

20-22 October, 2009

Puebla Mexico

FIRST CIRCULAR

Dear members and oak lovers: We are delighted to announce that the Herbarium and Botanical Garden at Puebla University in Puebla Mexico will be hosting the 6th Triennial International Oak Society Conference in late October, 2009.

The Conference will last 3 days during which there will be a wide variety of presentations and posters, as well as cultural and outdoor activities. If you are thinking about presenting a paper or poster, please let me know.

Two field trips are being planned in order to show attendees the diversity of oaks in Mexico. The pre-conference tour is being planned for 2 days to the South of Mexico and the post-conference tour will be in the central part of Mexico. There is no shortage of things to see as Mexico is home to over 140 *Quercus* species.

We invite you to send your pre-registration form, so we can have an idea how many of you are interested in visiting the country with the most oaks species in the world! The link to fill the form will be posted in the International Oak Society website.

We are looking for sponsors for the Conference. If you wish to assist us, please contact me at macosta@siu.buap.mx or herbario.jardinbotanico@mail.buap.mx

Maricela Rodriguez-Coombes
Conference Chair



*Don't forget to send in
your nominations for the
2009 Directors!*

The End of an Era

The AmerIndian Trail Marker Tree, a *Quercus alba* near Athens, Illinois, fell in a storm this spring. Many Oak Society members have seen this tree, and even climbed it, during visits to Illinois with Guy Sternberg. It had been core dated to about 1730 and was the last known trail tree in Illinois. A prop had been installed two years ago to protect it from ice loading, but a severe cross wind twisted it over sideways to the South.

Attempts are being made to graft it from scion wood harvested the week the tree fell, while it was still dormant. If one of the grafts succeeds, it will be planted near the Trail Tree and, once tall enough, bent in the same direction to replicate the original.

In addition, the broken stump was fenced by the owner to exclude deer and livestock for the unlikely possibility that it will send up a sprout. Guy Sternberg has harvested part of one limb for use in making future Oak Society award plaques and commemorative pieces for the owner's family, and has taken a few small wood samples for study. A piece also has been set aside for ceremonial use by Native Americans. The rest of the tree will be left in place, to be viewed as a fallen relic of history.



Continued from page 3, col. 2

New IOS Web Site

Once you have thus registered, you will have access to all services and tools on the site (whereas visitors who are not paid members of the IOS have only limited access and cannot input any information).

If you are particularly interested in helping to develop the site to its maximum potential – inputting information and encouraging others to do so – please contact Béatrice Chassé, arboretum.pouyouleix@wanadoo.fr



Continued from page 1, col. 1

Bur Oak Canyon Symposium

explain to us the relationship that the Native Americans had with the oak, and what importance this canyon played in their lives.

Justin Evertson from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum will talk about the selection, preservation, and growing of oaks on the high plains

Common Scents Greenhouse & Nursery will host a cookout in the evening to finish off the first day. It will be casual, and all of the presenters will be available to answer any questions that they might not have had time for in the classroom.

Tuesday morning, we will assemble for the field trip portion of the symposium. We will follow the Driftwood Creek some thirty miles to Bur Oak Canyon, where we will experience the beauty of short grass prairie, amazing vistas, and the canyon that seemingly appears out of nowhere. Once at the canyon, we will review a dendrochronology report on a tree from this site. These relicts are believed to be of a stand that is at least a thousand years old. We will finish with an informal wrap-up session at the canyon, and once again be able to ask our presenters to explain just what we are looking at and what the canyon provided for the Native Americans.

Please check the homepage (<http://buroakcanyon.com>) for registration fees and further details.

Any money that might be considered profit from this event will be given to the owners of Bur Oak Canyon, the Lewis Family, to help with regeneration efforts.





Stuewe and Sons, Inc.
Tree Seedling Nursery Containers

2290 S.E. Kiger Island Dr.
Corvallis, OR 97333-9425 USA

(800) 553-5331
(541) 757-7798
(541) 754-6617 FAX
www.stuewe.com
e-mail: eric@stuewe.com

Eric Stuewe
President

Proceedings of the Third Sudden Oak Death Science Symposium Available

Proceedings of a 2007 SOD Science Symposium can be downloaded for free from the following website: http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr214/. It can also be ordered from the USDA Forest Service. To request a book or CD, email your full mailing address in block form and note if you want a book, CD, or both to rschneider@fs.fed.us. You can also mail the information to Richard Schneider, Publishing Services, Rocky Mountain Research Center, 240 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526-2098, USA. There is a limit of one book and one CD per person (no charge).

This Symposium provided a forum for current research on sudden oak death caused by the exotic, quarantine pathogen, *Phytophthora ramorum*. One hundred and seventeen paper and poster submissions describing the following topics are included: biology, genetics, nursery and wildland management, monitoring, ecology, and diagnostics.

Financial support for this publication was provided by: USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station



Errata: IOS Journal Spring 2008

The photograph of the unusual bark formation on page 57 of IOS Journal #19 entitled 'The true face of *Quercus gilva*' is, in fact, of the bark of *Quercus hondae*, thus it should read 'The true face of *Quercus hondae*'. A few of the photo credits were transposed also: The photo described above was taken by me, but the photograph on page 53 and the lower photograph on page 60, both entitled '*Quercus serrata* ssp. *mongolicoides*', were taken by Anke Mattern.

Shaun Haddock



Saving *Quercus sichourensis* (Hu) C.C.

Huang & Y. T. Chang*

Conservation efforts financed by the National Natural Science Foundation of China to help save *Quercus sichourensis* – considered to be Critically Endangered since the publication of the *Red List of Oaks* (Oldfield and Eastwood, Fauna and Flora International, Cambridge, UK, 2008) – have now received additional support in the form of an International Oak Society grant of \$1,000 plus \$3,300 raised through private donations. Three Society members (Diana Gardener, OR; Caroline Brown, CA; and Béatrice Chassé, FRANCE) plus one non-member (Alison Ramsdale, UK), are the contributors to this very successful fund-raising campaign.

Quercus sichourensis, belonging to the subgenus *Cyclobalanopsis*, is endemic to China and was first described in 1951. It is thought that only 5 individuals of this species are left in three localities in the wild. A very important part of the conservation programme, run by International Oak Society member Dr. Zhou Zhe-kun at the Kunming Institute of Botany, will be extensive field research, especially in southeast Yunnan and west Guizhou, to determine if this figure is correct. Research on the physiology and ecology of seeds and seedlings, plus the reintroduction of seedlings in an attempt to re-establish the species in the wild, are additional major goals of this programme.

"Many of the seeds we collected last year have germinated and are doing well. We will attempt to introduce these back into the wild this year. We are grateful for these new funds from the International Oak Society and private donors. They will be used to finance this plus the field work we are planning in order to evaluate precisely the state of the wild populations and to determine suit-

able locations for reintroduction.", says Dr. Zhe-kun, who adds, "According to local residents who know these trees, acorn production is abundant but no seedlings are found. Indeed, laboratory tests have shown that 80% of the acorns germinate – so we need to determine why they are not growing naturally."

Future work will also include *in situ* conservation, introduction of the species to arboreta, and strengthening public awareness of the need to conserve both *Quercus sichourensis* and its habitat.

* Treated as *Cyclobalanopsis sichourensis* Hu in the *Flora of China*.

Description

Height : 30-40 m

Bark : grey, peels off in strips

Leaf : evergreen, oblong, 12-24 cm long, 5-7 cm wide, entire or with teeth near the apex, yellowish or brown tomentum on underside of leaf with jelly-fish like trichomes (observable under a microscope)

Acorn : 4-8 cm in diameter, 2.4-3.5 cm in height

Cap : fully encloses the acorn

