

A Wedding Under Oaks

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The year 2010 was a special one for IOS oak lovers David Kusnierz and Edith Makra. They met two years ago and their shared love of trees was a big part of their courtship. When they decided to get married on June 20, 2010, they both agreed it would have to be an oak-centric wedding. Indeed it was.



They were married on Herrick Lake at the Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton, IL. They took their vows under two large *Quercus xbebbiana* Schneid. that stand near the lake's edge. Edith's hair was highlighted with a garland of oak leaves studded with yellowwood flowers while David sported a corsage of small oak leaves and an acorn. Edith made her own wedding gown in white linen with a simple row of oak leaves. Their vows centered in on their shared love of trees. Here is an excerpt from the ceremony: " David and Edith were drawn to these two magnificent oak trees as a fitting altar for their marriage. These two trees have stood here for many, many years, enduring storms and drought, as well as sunshine and the sweet spring rains that bring life and growth. Together. Together, these two trees have shared the years. And now David and Edith will join their lives by sharing the most solemn vows that a man and a woman can share. These vows will endure like the majestic oaks under which we stand."







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They exchanged wedding bands of cast gold with acorns and oak leaves all around each ring. Upon completion of the ceremony, David and Edith were rowed across the lake in a boat festooned with oak leaves and branches. On the other side, they began the reception which took place in a stone-pillared pavilion that was decorated with fabric and strewn with oak leaves and branches. Each table had a center piece created entirely of oak stems and branches.

David and Edith also practice what they preach. Edith is the Community Trees Advocate at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois, and David is an entomology research assistant there. They are still blissfully married and continue to share their love of trees and each other.