



INTRODUCTION

As Time Goes By

In 2004, during an Oak Open Day in the United Kingdom, Lloyd Kenyon asked me if I would be going to Courson (a very important three-day horticultural event in France). As I was intending to do so, we agreed that we would meet at the entrance. When I got back home from the UK, Lloyd had sent me a message with a very long list of the “extra” plants in his nursery, asking me if I would like to have some of them. Since it had only been one year since the Arboretum des Pouyouleix was inaugurated, there were many, many oaks (and other things) on that list that made me drool but, modestly, I selected only a very few. Lloyd wrote back in his laconic way, “Is that all?”.

Well, I wasn’t going to make him ask a third time, and so Lloyd arrived in Courson with his car replete with plants and we had a most enjoyable day.

Reflecting on the contributions to this issue of *International Oaks* I couldn’t help but think how the spirit of collaboration personified by Lloyd is an integral part of the oak-lover’s world.

The gardens explored by Cameron (Hackfalls, New Zealand), Chassé (El Jardín del Rosario, Spain), and Haddock (Thorp Perrow Arboretum and Yorkshire Arboretum, UK) would not be what they are today if it weren’t for the round-the-world network of oak lovers that have shared seeds, plants, knowledge, and other forms of assistance with their enthusiastic creators.

Similarly, oak exploration all over the world – in these pages in India (Soucek) and Mexico (Chassé) – is first and foremost a collective effort: without funding and without the dynamic collaboration of colleagues in the target countries, these important field trips would certainly not be so successful.

On the horticultural side, the efforts of Jablonski and Russell to systematically catalogue and register new and lesser-known cultivars from around the world also depend on collaboration with nurserymen, plant propagators and oak aficionados.

In this volume, Belter describes new methods using PCR-based analysis to diagnose *Bretziella fagacearum* in the war against oak wilt being fought by many, and grafting section *Cyclobalanopsis* oaks introduced here by Humphrey opens new possibilities for horticulture as well as oak conservation efforts.

Joel explores the possible role of the Iberian *dehesa*, starring *Q. rotundifolia* and *Q. suber*, as a possible model for a holistic approach to food production in Australia's difficult climate and soil – in other words, collaborating with the natural environment instead of fighting against it to meet humanity's nutritional needs. In a lovely portrait of *Q. garryana* in Vancouver, Justice points to the significant historical role of this oak as an aboriginal food plant and important trade item. *Quercus garryana* will take many of you back to the 9th International Oak Society Conference, held in California in 2018 – as will Keuter who shares with us here fascinating new observations in the California Red Oaks, specifically, what characteristics can be used to determine parentage within the evergreen × evergreen hybrids of that clan. From this study, begun in 2017, may well emerge a few new names.

On the subject of names, Valencia and Coombes review some intriguing nomenclatural changes within the Mexican oaks, Li et al. report on a new species from China, *Q. pseudosetulosa*, and Chassé on one from Vietnam, *Q. trungkhanhensis*.

It occurs to me while writing this in February, at the dawn of the New Year, that this issue of *International Oaks* marks the first year of the third decade of the 21st century which in turn makes me ponder the passing of time and these times that are a-changin'.

These are not altogether peaceful thoughts, to be sure.

But I am cheered by the singular beauty of the swoops of common cranes that blacken the sky heading back north as they have been doing since the Miocene, though not at the same time then.

And I think to myself that Pablo Neruda is right.

“You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep spring from coming.”

Béatrice Chassé

Editor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Béatrice Chassé', with a large, stylized initial 'B' at the start.