



# International Oaks

The Journal of the International Oak Society

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Proceedings  
9th International Oak Society Conference  
October 21-24, 2018

Issue No. 30 / 2019 / ISSN 1941-2061



*This issue is dedicated to Michael Avishai, Bob Berry, and Doug McCreary each of whom has inspired oak enthusiasts around the world. May their memory live on in the oak trees that we grow and in the understanding we come to have of them.*

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### For contributions to *International Oaks*

contact

Béatrice Chassé

pouyouleix.arboretum@gmail.com or editor@internationaloaksociety.org

Les Pouyouleix, 24800 St.-Jory-de-Chalais, France

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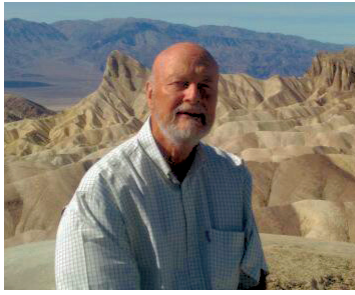
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## FOREWORD

# California Dreamin’

In 1994, with the generous assistance of The Morton Arboretum, the IOS took its first tentative steps to transform from a dispersed group of oak enthusiasts into an international organization by holding its first Conference; three years later the adolescent Society was hosted in San Marino, California, by the Huntington Botanical Gardens and Library. The IOS would appear to have been retracing those early footsteps by reconvening at The Morton in 2015, followed by California in 2018, but as an organization now fully fledged, with each event meticulously organized and exceeding previous attendance records.

However, the venue for the California Conference of which this volume is the Proceedings was this time not in Greater Los Angeles, but in Northern California at the University of California’s 5,300-acre campus in Davis, a vibrant university community situated between San Francisco and Sacramento. In a demonstration of how the IOS has come of age, so many and varied were the presentations that two and sometimes three simultaneous sessions were required – a new departure for the Society, but shrewd theming in each venue largely obviated the need to move around between presentations. Of course, it thus follows that it was impossible to attend every lecture, making their written publication more essential than ever. This triennial Proceedings Issue of *International Oaks*, patiently assembled by our indefatigable Editor, Béatrice Chassé, will finally allow even those who attended the Conference to vicariously enjoy the lectures they were unable to view at the time. I should add that each Proceedings becomes more portly than the last (yes, it comes to us all), and the Board seriously debated this year as to whether it should be published in two volumes. Finally, as you see, the consensus was for one weapons-grade “big issue”.

The theme of the Conference was “Oak Landscapes for the Future: Adapting to Climate Change”. We oak fanatics have of course been trumpeting for years that oaks are the answer: it would seem that climate change may finally have provided the question. On a sadder note, the theme was made all the more poignant by the catastrophic wildfires which swept California in 2018, peaking, as it befell, both before and after our event and its Tours. So we were the lucky ones, but our heartfelt sympathy goes out to all those affected by the terrifying conflagrations, and particularly to those who sustained tragic loss.

My wholehearted admiration invariably goes to those who pick up the heavy load of organizing a Conference, and in this case it was long-time IOS member Emily Griswold who boldly put her hand in the air, and who, with the able aid of the Conference Committee, brought off such a memorable coup. I list the members so that I may thank them on behalf of all of us who attended: the Chair, Emily Griswold; Shannon Still, who sadly was precluded from attending the Conference due to ill health; Abbey Hart and Stewart Winchester, who in addition organized and guided the two Pre-Conference tours; Rachel Davis and Dave Muffly, who did the same for the Post-Tours; Zarah Wyly and Melissa Cruz. Our gratitude is again due to Ryan and Tammy Russell: the beneficiaries of their silent auction at the 8<sup>th</sup> IOS Conference at The Morton were able to attend this Conference, and there was an equally successful re-run at Davis for the student crop who will attend the Taiwan Conference in 2021.

In addition to the Conference itself, I was fortunate enough to participate in all the associated Tours, which are described in detail in this issue. Up to 41 of us enjoyed the Sierra Nevada and North Coast Pre-Tours, and, although akin to blasphemy, I was delighted that in addition to splendid oaks and magnificent landscapes such as Yosemite, we also ticked the boxes for California's iconic conifer species: the tallest (*Sequoia sempervirens*, the coast redwood), the largest (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*, the giant sequoia), and the oldest (*Pinus longaeva*, the bristlecone pine). An awesome national champion *Quercus lobata* has to be mentioned, as it seemed to rival the redwoods in height: it really defied belief. What was less apparent to the Pre-Tour participants was that the itineraries had to be re-planned at the last moment due to the alarming progress of the fires: full marks to the team.

From the Apple headquarters and Magic, Inc. to a champion *Q. agrifolia*, to a pygmy forest of the same species, to woodland of the endangered *Q. engelmannii* and much else besides, the Post-Tours also presented a kaleidoscope of uniquely Californian images.

A recent change to our membership benefits means that new members now receive the following year's *International Oaks*. I urge all of you who joined for the 2018 Conference, and have thus received these Proceedings, not to let your membership lapse: the Society offers tours and events, a lively website (which includes the essential reference database Oak Name Checklist), whilst the excellent publications *International Oaks* and *Oak News & Notes* will keep you abreast of the constantly breaking wave of oak information, regardless of whether your interest is general or deeply scientific. Enjoy and learn from this Issue, and please stay with us. I hope to see you in Taiwan!

Shaun Haddock  
President

