

# Thoughts from the President

**T**he International Oak Society has outgrown the energetic capabilities of our original editors/publishers, Nigel and Lisa Wright, who produced our first seven issues in the "spare time" of their busy lives. So please welcome our new production editor, Russell Stare. Mr. Stare is a professional who plans to phase many improvements into our journal, *International Oaks*. His education and career in journalism and publication design are tailored to our needs, and his work portfolio is very impressive. Russell has agreed to work with our non-profit organization at a very modest fee so that we may continue to conserve our limited financial resources and keep the cost of dues affordable for all members.

Finding our new editor and converting everything from Mac to PC computer systems unfortunately has delayed this issue. But as we go to press, we are very enthusiastic about the future of this publication. Our journal has a new name, some initial design changes, and more new people involved. Future issues will continue to exhibit improvements that will make them more useful than ever. We plan to place more emphasis upon original, current information and rely less upon reprints. And our contract with Russell Stare should allow us to begin to produce future issues on schedule - a luxury that eluded us all too frequently in the past, when journal production was a voluntary midnight task wedged between other responsibilities.

In addition, we have a functioning editorial committee chaired by Dr. Douglas McCreary of the University of Cali-

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ifornia. Doug assembled our last newsletter and is coordinating editorial reviews for the journals as well. I serve on his committee along with Vice President Allen Coombes of the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum, Treasurer Peter van der Linden of the Bickelhaupt Arboretum, and 2000 Conference Chairman Ron Lance of the North Carolina Arboretum. We will aim for consistent standards of quality and accuracy concomitant with this type of scholarly publication, and will continue to provide a mix of scientific papers, illustrations, and general articles that should be of interest to all members.

This issue provides the official publication of several new oak names and descriptions, an honor for which we are grateful to the authors. In addition, we present timely material pertinent to the Oak Open Days gathering in Germany this September, the first article in a series about propagation research, an update on more Australian oaks, and other useful information.

Now that we have this transitional issue completed, our next issue will include the proceedings from the 1997 conference. And we have not forgotten the promise made two years ago by

former editor Nigel Wright to correct and reprint the premier issue in the current format. We have a generous offer from a member to help fund this republication, and we still plan to do so once we reduce the backlog of current work.

Always remember, however, that this publication and this organization will be no better than the sum of contributions from its members. Every person has something valuable to offer, so please consider how you can help us continue to grow. Your specific interest should be directed to the appropriate points of contact listed in the last newsletter. Articles for the journal or information for the newsletter, for example, should be sent to Doug McCreary. Offers of assistance with conference planning go to Ron Lance; tax-deductible contributions (to assist with publication costs, speaker honoraria, student member sponsorship, etc.) to me, or directly to our treasurer Peter van der Linden. Recruitment of new members falls under Dick Jensen's direction. These and other opportunities all await you!

Guy Sternberg  
President  
International Oak Society