



International Oaks

The Journal of the International Oak Society

...old-growth Quercus faginea, the ecological significance of delayed fertilization, a tale of two oaks, the oaks of New York City...

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Photos. Cover: Roderick Cameron (Central Park, New York City, USA). Page 7: The Morton Arboretum; Béatrice Chassé (*Quercus acerifolia*). Page 8: Béatrice Chassé. Page 9: Ryan Russell. Pages 10-11: Dirk Giseburt. Page 13: Roderick Cameron (*Q. coccinea*, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, NYC, USA).

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INTRODUCTION

Fasten Your Seat Belts!

You are about to embark on a voyage around the world...

Strolling amongst the oaks of New York City (Cameron) you will marvel at how they have been staged, not only on the City's streets and in its parks but in works of art and memorials as well. The last time I was in New York (2019), I walked with friends from the Lower East Side to Central Park, changing avenues every now and then as we moved north on this 5-km trek. I was absolutely astounded by the number of oak trees I was able to introduce my companions to. They too were amazed to see in the flesh, so to speak, this incredible oak diversity that I have been telling them about for years. Thanks to the in-depth research presented here, I am now convinced that the International Oak Society could organize our first urban Oak Open Day in the Big Apple and nobody would be disappointed.

Ambling through remarkable arboreta/gardens in France, Portugal, and Spain (Chassé, Duhart, Vila-Viçosa et al., and Wood), you will sometimes be envious of the plants you will read of that grow in these places that are the passionate accomplishments of their creators. Some are several decades old, others only just born. Some are private initiatives, others, part of institutional efforts. All are invitations to discovery of far-away places through their plants.

Scrambling about the rocky outcrops where the endangered *Q. acerifolia* is found in Arkansas, followed by a frolic in the canopy of *Q. humboldtii* in the cloud forests of Colombia (Wu), you will think, how amazing what some people won't do to get close to their oaks! And, how appropriate this contribution about *Q. acerifolia* Stoyloff & Hess.

Discovering the venerable, yet fragile, *Q. faginea* in Portugal (Ribeiro et al.), you will enjoy the wonderful stories that pass from generation to generation, like part of the trees themselves, and you will applaud the efforts deployed by the authors to increase awareness and protection of these very old, very majestic beings.

Deng et al. take you on a thought provoking journey to explore the insides and outs of the fertilization processes at play in oak reproduction. What is the ecological and evolutionary significance of the delayed fertilization process? What are the physiological

mechanisms associated with hybridization? If hybridization has been, as it seems to be the case, a trigger for the remarkably fast divergence of the genus *Quercus*, then this line of research will help us understand how.

Of course no issue of *International Oaks* would be worthy of the title without a foray into names, without which, to paraphrase Carl Linnaeus, we can have no knowledge of the things they name (*Philosophica Botanica* 1751).

Lance takes us with remarkable clarity through the labyrinth that has been created by more than a century of discordant interpretations of the morphological, taxonomic, and nomenclatural significance of “Durand” oak.

Vereecke shines a welcome light to lead us through the intricacies of the names of some Eastern European hybrids, wherein we learn, amongst other things, that *Q. dalechampii* labels will have to be changed. Cameron and Fortgens have uncovered, and resolved, a rather ironic situation: the well-known and much-planted *Q. ×libanerris* ‘Trompenburg’ does not grow...at Trompenburg Tuinen & Arboretum (the Netherlands). Thus, a name is born: *Q. ×libanerris* ‘Tromper’.

May your summer be merry and bright, and may all your agendas be not white but duly marked in anticipation of the long overdue, upcoming 10th International Oak Society Conference (New Mexico, USA) that will take us on yet another exciting voyage.

Béatrice Chassé

Editor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Béatrice Chassé', with a stylized flourish above the name.