

THE MAPLE SOCIETY

MINUTES

of Annual General Meeting

held on Saturday 30th September, 2017 at 10.30am.
at Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury, Glos., GL8 8QS, UK

Attendance

Agustin Coello-Vera (Skype), Emery Davis (Skype), Keith Montgomery, Christine Montgomery, Hugh Angus, Jan Walker, Linda Miles, Graham Jones, Dan Crowley, Mike Walker, Radu Handoka, Margaret Handoka, Jackie Angus, Gillian Truslove, Sheila Truslove.

Apologies for Absence

Ray Oram, Stan Wild, Laura Jones, Peter Gregory

Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed as correct: Proposed: Margaret Handoka; Seconded: Mike Walker

Matters Arising

Dan thanked the society for the conservation grant he received last year to commence a survey of maples in Vietnam.

Chairman's report (in full in Appendix 1)

Agustin extended his thanks to Westonbirt Arboretum for hosting the AGM.

His full report is attached. This included:

Thanks to Peter Gregory for his continuing contribution to the Society – his presence was very much missed today.

Acknowledgement that the project on N. Vietnamese maples, supported by the Society, including the North American Branch, in conjunction with the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden (UBCBG) and the Vietnam Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR) helps to raise the scientific profile of the society.

Agustin expressed disappointment at number of registrants in spite of the interesting programme. The committee will need to consider reasons for this is, particularly in comparison with attendance at meetings of the Oak Society. It was agreed that the committee should consult the membership to try to increase their involvement. With respect to future symposia, there is a need to review speaker fees in order to reduce registration fees.

The Spring meeting will be held at Wespelaar Arboretum, Belgium, in conjunction with a maple day there – the dates to be finalised.

On behalf of the Society, Keith thanked Agustin and Emery for their hard work for their roles in the organisation of the symposium.

Emery commented on the need for a committee post mortem after the event.

Agustin commented on the low turnout at Society events and the need to understand why. Margaret observed that this is nothing new. Graham observed that as well as the Newsletter, information is available on Facebook, and the UBC forum indicated 50-70 views in relation to the

Symposium. Hugh (supported Radu) suggested sending out a questionnaire with newsletter to find out what people want; Emery supported putting this together at the next committee meeting. This could be sent out with the newsletter or Graham suggested the use of survey Survey Monkey. Hugh will circulate questionnaire developed last year for consideration at the next committee meeting.

Treasurer's report – Radu Handoca (Appendix 2), excludes Symposium costings)

Symposium income and expenditure:

The amounts held in Paypal are: £49.36 (from this year's seed distribution) and €9,618.94 (from the Symposium 2017 registrations and will be used to pay towards Symposium expenses).

Arrangements have been made for the hotel deposit to be returned.

Taking these into account, the balance is about £5,700 compared to the balance from last year.

Financial support towards any deficit incurred by the symposium was originally agreed up to £1,500, but has been increased to £2,000 (it is now likely to be less than that). Non-committee members approved this. Radu asked for clarification of the expenses likely to be incurred.

Other expenses:

The greatest expenditure is on the newsletter, of which £1100 will be recovered from NAB.

Membership report (Appendix 3)

This shows a slightly lower membership this year, compared to last year.

Email addresses are held for about 70% of the membership. Emery suggested sending out email reminders for events. Graham will assist in putting together an email group to facilitate this.

Election of Officers

The present treasurer / membership secretary, Radu Handoca had expressed the wish to stand down. Nominations are therefore invited for the post of treasurer / membership secretary. It was suggested that Radu put together a 'job description' outlining what exactly this involves in terms of activity, time and skill, for the Newsletter.

In the meantime, Radu will continue as treasurer: Proposed: Mike Walker, seconded: Christine Montgomery

Election of Committee

All other committee members stood for re-election (Dan Crowley, Emery Davis, Graham Jones, Christine Montgomery, Keith Montgomery, Mike Walker).

Proposed: Linda Miles, Seconded: Sheila Truslove

Subscription rates

Keith proposed that the cost of life membership be fixed at 20 x annual

membership fee.

Radu had proposed variations in subscription rates depending on the time of year individuals joined.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the subscription rates remain unchanged for this year, but that the committee would review all subscription rates in preparation for next year's AGM. Leave as is for the present.

Any Other Business

Dan had applied for a £1,000 conservation grant for study in Vietnam.

Members agreed that the Society should provide £500 with immediate effect. Since Hugh had received no response from the NAB with respect to their contribution of £500, and in view of the likely change of chair, it was agreed Jan would contact Marielle (NAB Secretary / Treasurer) to chase this up.

Mike suggested that the committee consider ways of encouraging institutional membership. It was agreed that this should form part of a detailed review of the membership.

Mike also noted that the Society has booked a stand at the NEC, Birmingham in 2018 in support of the Society's educational objectives.

Keith gave personal thanks to members for their consideration and support over recent months.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm and was followed by a silent auction that raised £40.

Appendix 1 Chairman's report (Agustin Coello-Vera)

AGM 2017 Chairman's Report

Introduction

First of all, I would like to thank society members for their continuous support, and committee members for their various contributions to the running of the Society and its activities over the last year. Margaret membership; Radu, treasurer; Graham, website and payment management; Mike, NEC and silent auction; Jan, secretary and gift aid; Emery, Symposium organisation. Special thanks to Hugh for his editorship of the Newsletter seconded by Keith, I trust all Members have appreciated the high quality of the content and of the printing. Special thanks to both Radu and Margaret for staying on as Treasurer/Secretary for yet another year, this has been extremely useful to the Society since we need more time to find replacements.

Peter Gregory

It was with great sadness we had to accept Peter's resignation from the Committee due to frail health. The Maple Society owes him so much that I would like to pay him strong tribute here and thank him for all he has done for the Society, we will miss him.

Projects

The society (including the North American branch) has been able to contribute £1000 to partially support Dan Crowley's project to catalogue maple species in Northern Vietnam. This is part of a larger project that aims to catalogue, collect, and assess for conservation purposes, the woody flora of the Hoang Lien Son Mountains in Sapa Province in northern Vietnam. The scope of Dan's involvement, covered by our funding, is to catalogue and characterize all of the Acer species in the area

Events

Spring UK Meeting

The spring 2017 Meeting in the UK, 20th and 21st May, included The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew on Saturday while Sunday was spent at Syon Park. In the morning of Saturday 20th we had a guided tour of Kew while the afternoon was devoted to the maple collection which has many fine and interesting specimens. A detailed description of the visits can be found at the Autumn Newsletter

Gardener's World at the NEC 2017

I would like to thank Jan and Mike for organising our participation and Linda, Ray, Robin, Elena, Margaret, Radu, Hugh and Jackie for their help manning the NEC stand this year. And also thanks to society members, Ed and Clare of Credale Nursery, a wholesale nursery in Herefordshire, for supplying a good range of Japanese maples to decorate our stand

Special thanks to Robin Jamie for managing the very successful seed distribution scheme that allows members to access seed collected from various maple species and cultivars.

Maple Symposium

The 2017 International Maple Symposium will take place in Roscoff, Brittany, France, on October 25th and 26th, followed by the Post Symposium Tour in Normandy, France, on October 27th to 29th inclusive.

On October 24th, in collaboration with Botanic Gardens Conservation International, ("BGCI"), there will be a dedicated Workshop on Red Listing of Maples. We want to address the question of how threatened are the world's maple species.

The first day of the Symposium will focus on maple species with updated presentations on Vietnamese, Chinese, Iranian and North-American maples. The presentations will be followed by a 'Round-Table' where we will debate the current status on the phylogenetic and systematic position of maple species with the aim of identifying the high-priority sections. The Round-Table will be composed of the morning speakers, completed by renowned Botanists; the audience will also be invited to contribute to the debate.

The second day of the Symposium will focus on conservation of species and on maple cultivars. Two presentations will report on current efforts to preserve Acer pentaphyllum and Acer griseum. The subject of Maple cultivars will be introduced by two presentations by a well-known Maple collector and by a

well-known nurseryman. The round table planned after the presentations will look at current issues regarding maple cultivars

The Post-Symposium tour, from October 27th to October 29th, will take participants on an exceptional tour of Normandy visiting some of the most outstanding French gardens, including Le Vastérival and L'Étang de l'Aunay, with their remarkable maple collections in full Autumn/Fall colours. The Jardin de Valérianes, which has a fine maple collection, closes to visitors at the end of September, but, exceptionally, has agreed to open specially for us.

The number of registrants has been well below our expectations based on past Symposia. We had to wait until mid-September to reach the threshold that allowed us to finally confirm the Symposium, this threshold was defined including a subsidy from the Society reserves which may or may not be used depending on the final numbers. This subsidy will be used, if needed, only towards meeting the financial support the Society promised to speakers. We need to understand, and then take corrective actions, why so few people registered in spite of a very interesting Program and why other Botanical Societies comparable to ours, like the International Oak Society, manage to hold Symposia with 4-5 times the attendance of our Symposium.

Future events

We are planning to have our spring 2018 meeting in Belgium combined with a Maple Day at Wespelaar Arboretum, along the lines of the Maple Day we organised at Westonbirt in 2016.

Agustin Coello-Vera
Chairman

Appendix 2 Treasurer's Report (Radu Handoca)

MAPLE SOCIETY FINANCIAL REPORT

20 OCTOBER 2016 TO 29 SEPTEMBER 2017

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Opening balance	£5,420.15	Newsletter printing (4 issues)	£2,680.44
Membership fees	£1,868.49	of which printing costs	£1,963.00
Gift-aid donations	£ 278.00	Conservation project	£ 500.00
Symposium sponsorship	£ 2,500.00	Traveling Expenses	£ 168.75
Symposium registration fee	£ 240.54	Symposium 2017 hotel deposit	£ 1,114.27
Refund from TMSNAB	£ 886.85	Bank balance at 27.09.2017	£ 6,730.57
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Total:	£11,194.03	Total:	£11,194.03

Compiled by Radu Handoca
Treasurer, on September 27th 2017

Appendix 3 Membership report (Radu Handoca)

Membership stands at 135 (not including the 4 garden guides at last autumn's AGM weekend to whom we gave honorary membership for a year.)

- This compares with 141 at the 2016 AGM.
- 10 are life members and 9 are exempt from membership subscription.
- 5 are paying at the business rate.
- 111 at private membership rate.

35 of the addresses are overseas in 18 countries, as follows:

Australia	3	Italy	2
Belgium	4	Japan	2
China	1	Luxemburg	1
Denmark	1	Netherlands	5
Estonia	1	Poland	3
France	5	Slovakia	1
Germany	1	Sweden	1
Hungary	1	Uruguay	1
Ireland	1	New Zealand	1