

Issue 110

April 2018

# SONGNEWS

*The Newsletter of the Society of Ontario Nut Growers*

*Eastern Chapter of the Society of Ontario Nut Growers*

**WWW.SONGONLINE.CA**

## Black Walnut, The Misunderstood Tree



Black walnut suitable for veneer timber



Black walnuts under a street tree in Perth, ON



Ontario's largest shagbark hickory tree in Inverary



Heritage Heartnut Tree, Plains Rd, Burlington, ON, 315 cm cir.

### **If you Haven't Renewed**

Its time for your annual membership. Check your envelope for the year you are paid up. Still Only Paid up to 2017? Please renew now.

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### SONG Website

**www.songonline.ca**

Check it for updates on  
meetings, read about nut  
farming, post your nuts or  
nut products to sell on line.

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Heartnuts  
Daniel Buckles- Champlain Oaks

## NUTS ABOUT HEARTNUTS

**The cookbook is still available,** The book is priced at \$12. Please add \$3.50 for mailing. Growers who wish to buy the books in quantity to resell at their market stands, etc. contact Ernie for prices. Send cheque made out to SONG to: Bernice Grimo, treasurer, 979 Lakeshore Rd, R.R.3, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0.

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Have you visited the ECSONG tab on the SONG website recently to see the work that was done there? If you click on the SONG NEWS tab, you will be impressed to find all of the SONG NEWS issues from the beginning of SONG in 1972. Enthusiastic members of ECSONG did this for all members and visitors alike. There is plenty of reading there for the new as well as old members during the cold long winter. Enjoy!

### Wanted

Research director for Chestnuts, to take on the responsibility to promote the growing and research into better varieties for our growing areas in southern Ontario.

Ed...

## Coming Events

### SONG 2018 SPRING AUCTION MEETING

FEATURING: Nut trees galore and more. Trees being auctioned include hazelnut, hardy Persian walnut, ultra-northern pecan, hickory, heartnut, sweet chestnut, pine nut, ginkgo, and hybrids including hicans and buartnuts to name a few. As a change of pace, an assortment of unusual fruits and ornamentals may be auctioned. Tree seed also may be available for the grower wishing an added challenge. Each year brings different items and always surprises.

The Spring Nut Growers' Auction is one of those rare events you won't want to miss! Members are encouraged to bring things to auction off. Please contact Ernie Grimo at Grimo Nut Nursery if you plan on bringing more than ten items.

DATE: Sunday, April 30, 2017

TIME: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Members and visitors are always welcome. Cash or cheque only.

LOCATION: The Simcoe Experiment Station Hall, on Blue Line Rd at Highway 3, Simcoe, Ontario. From Hwy 3 on the east side of Simcoe, drive north to the open gate turn left to the parking area and side entrance.

### SONG 2018 FALL MEETING

FEATURING: A chance to see what an entrepreneurial spirit can create. Lis Burrows and her husband, Mitch, have planted a nut grove so they can use their own tree products in their value added treats. The trees are small yet but they are living their dream by using their own recipes to make and sell their nut specialties at the Royal Winter Fair and at other special events. She now supplies specialty stores that feature her nut delicacies too. A visit and tour of a craft brewery or an alternative site may be included on this day, but that is still to be arranged.

DATE: Saturday, September 22, 2018. TIME: 11:00 am. Barbeque lunch will be provided.

LOCATION: 6325 Fifth Line, Fergus, ON N1M 2W5. Take Hwy 6 N to Fergus. Turn right on Belsyde Ave W. (1.8 km). Continue onto Wellington County Rd 18 (6.5 km). Turn right on Fifth Line. Farm is on the left.

### **Northern Nut Growers Association 2018 Annual Conference**

**Sunday, August 5, 2018 - Wednesday, August 8, 2018**

**Location:** Le Baluchon, 3550, chemin des Trembles, St. Paulin, Quebec, Canada.

Le Baluchon is located in a beautiful wooded section of Quebec, Canada, about an hour from Montreal.

To receive additional information about this conference, the agenda, etc. when it becomes available, send an email to the NNGA Webmaster at [icomserve@aol.com](mailto:icomserve@aol.com) with the subject "2018 NNGA Conference".

US travelers to Canada, please note that a passport or enhanced driver's license is required if driving, otherwise a passport is the only acceptable document for flying.



Le Baluchon, NNGA Conference Aug.5-8/18

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Imagine having a tree crop that comes from land that you don't work or even own, a crop that is considered of no value to the landowner. It is considered by many landowners as a tree product that is inedible, even poisonous. In fact, the land owner would be happy to have someone remove this crop and take it away. It is this kind of crop that the Grimo Nut Nursery exploits. It is the crop of black walnuts that grows wild across Southern Ontario and Quebec. Grimo only touches a portion of the crop and only that from the Niagara area. The rest remains on the ground or goes to garbage dumps that are filled with discarded black walnuts, wasting this valuable resource.

This is not the case in the United States. Hammons Products in Stockton, Missouri has collection sites across all of the surrounding states where collectors take black walnuts. The nuts are hulled, bagged and stacked on skids. Later they are trucked to Hammons for processing. In this manner they are able to collect millions of pounds of nuts each year.

The nut meats are separated and sold, while the waste shells are ground in mills to produce a variety of shell grades for other unique uses. Black walnut meats are sought after by candy makers, bakers, high end restaurants as well as homeowners. Such is the demand, that the sales do not extend beyond the borders of the United States. This leaves an opportunity for Canadians to exploit this resource.

## **THE BLACK WALNUT IN CANADA**

Of the 3 species of black walnut indigenous to North America, only the eastern black walnut is native to Canada. It was found naturally in Southern Ontario but was moved by native peoples to much of Southern Ontario as far as the Ottawa Valley in the north and eastward to the St. Lawrence Valley east as far as Quebec City where it thrives. Black walnut shells are a common presence in Native American archeological sites throughout the east and mid-west and so have been harvested for thousands of years.

Early colonists soon discovered the eastern black walnut. The great dimension of the trees made it a conspicuous marker of the fertility of the land. When Pennsylvania German settlers were looking for land, they picked areas where they found walnuts growing. This concept remained a factor of land selection through the Midwest and up into Ontario, Canada, wherever Pennsylvania Germans resettled.

Black walnut trees were encouraged to grow near farm houses by the Dutchmen as there was a folk belief that they "attracted lightening" and so spared the house being struck. This author can attest that this idea seems to hold true as I have seen huge lawn walnut trees that were hit but the nearby farm houses, never.

The black walnut is surprisingly adapted to the various climates of North America. It is found naturally as far south as northern Florida and as far north as Southern Ontario. It is adapted to the cold conditions of the areas south of Lake Superior as well as the dry prairie climate of North Dakota. This was not the limit of this strain of black walnut. Ernie Grimo collected black walnut seed from Morden, Manitoba and distributed this seed to willing participants across the Canadian Prairies where trees are growing in the very unfavorable prairie climates of zones 2 and 3.

In the last 2 centuries, black walnut has been established in many regions across Canada and the rest of the world. It has proven to be far more adaptable worldwide than its near cousin the Persian walnut. Unlike the cousin, the black walnut overcame North American climatic hurdles by producing a black, thick outer bark to withstand late winter conditions, and for added measure, it remains dormant weeks after other tree species, thus avoiding harmful spring weather temptations. It truly is a well-adapted but under-appreciated species.



## **THE SKINNY ON BLACK WALNUT JUGLONE**

Juglone is found in the vegetative buds, leaves, stems, nut hulls, and roots of the black walnut trees. Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) and butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) are the landscape plants most recognized by gardeners as being problems for their other plants. However, English or Persian walnut (*J. regia*) and hickories (*Carya*) also produce juglone but to a lesser degree and in most cases not problematic.

The production of juglone is a protective response by the plant to assure its survival. Many other plants (e.g., sugar maple, tree of heaven, hackberries, sycamore, cottonwood, black cherry, red oak, black locust, sassafras, fine fescue, and American elm) also produce allelochemicals to enhance their survival and reproduction by inhibiting nearby competition.

The most common symptoms of juglone sensitivity in landscape and garden plants is the yellowing and wilting of leaves, especially during the hot dry periods during the growing season, ultimately resulting in wilting and death of the plant.

Juglone-induced wilting and wilting due to water stress are often confused. Wilting due to lack of water occurs slowly and can be reversed with watering. Juglone-induced wilting often occurs rapidly even when ample soil moisture is present. Juglone-induced wilting may be partial or may encompass the whole plant. Experimental studies have shown that juglone inhibits plant respiration, depriving sensitive plants of needed energy and cell division as well as water and nutrient uptake.

Sensitive plants located beneath the canopy of a walnut tree are most susceptible to contact with juglone through direct root contact or accumulation of the toxin from leaves and nut hulls in poorly aerated, wet soils with limited microbial activity and organic matter. Juglone is poorly soluble in water and does not move very far in the soil. Well-drained and aerated soils with a healthy population of microbes can accelerate the metabolic decomposition of juglone. Where sensitive plants may survive outside of the canopy of a black walnut, highly sensitive plants may not tolerate small concentrations where decaying roots from a removed tree may still be releasing juglone. Juglone toxicity may persist for years after a tree is removed. So, impatience in replanting an area with juglone-sensitive plants is not advised.

### **Planting around Walnuts**

Understanding the site to be landscaped or developed into a garden is the first step in assuring successful plantings. Identifying your trees and shrubs will help avoid problems with allelopathic toxicity among your future landscape and garden plantings. General tips for planting around black walnuts include:

- Locating gardens well away from black walnuts.
- Creating and plant in raised beds to reduce root contact. This will require lining the bed to reduce root contact using weed fabric and filling the raised bed with new topsoil.
- Improving soil drainage with organic matter additions.
- Preventing leaves, hulls, and stems from decomposing near planting areas.
- Avoiding mulch containing walnut bark, wood, hulls, and leaves

### **Plants Tolerant to Juglone**

The following lists of plants tolerant to juglone were compiled from published sources. They are based on observation under various settings, but few plants have been experimentally tested for sensitivity to juglone. Many factors affect sensitivity, including level of contact, health of the plant, soil environment, and the overall site conditions. The lists provided here are strictly guides and cannot be considered complete or definitive. *Continued on page 6..*

**Trees Tolerant to Juglone**

- American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)
- American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)
- Arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*)
- Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
- Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
- Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
- Blackhaw Viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*)
- Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)
- Canada Hemlock (*Tsuga Canadensis*)
- Carolina Silverbell (*Halesia caroliniana*)
- Catalpa (*Catalpa bignoniodes*)
- Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)
- Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
- Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
- Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
- Fringetree (*Chionanthus* spp.)
- Goldenrain Tree (*Koeleruteria paniculata*)
- Hawthorne (*Crataegus* spp)
- Hickory (*Carya* spp)
- Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
- Most maples except silver maple (*Acer* spp)
- Oak species (*Quercus* spp)
- Ohio Buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*)
- Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)
- Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)
- River Birch (*Betula nigra*)
- Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)
- Serviceberry, Shadblow (*Amelanchier*)
- Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*)
- Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
- Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
- Virginia Pine (*Pinus virginiana*)
- White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*)
- Yellow Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

**Shrubs Tolerant to Juglone**

- American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)
- Barberry (*Berberis* spp)
- Black Raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*)
- Current (*Ribes* spp)
- Daphne (*Daphne* spp)
- Elderberry (*Sambucus Canadensis*)
- Exbury Hybrid Azalea "Gibraltar" & "Balzac"
- Forsythia (*Forsythia* spp)
- Hazelnut (*Corylus* spp)
- Juniper (*Juniperus* spp)
- Maple-leaved Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolia*)
- Mockorange (*Philadelphus* spp)
- Pinxterbloom
- Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)
- Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*)
- Snowball Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*)
- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
- St. Johnswort (*Hypericum prolificum*)
- Sumac (*Rhus copallina*)
- Witchhazel (*Hamamelis* spp)

**Vegetables Tolerant to Juglone**

- Beans
- Beets
- Carrots
- Corn
- Onions
- Parsnips
- Squash & Melons

**Fruit Trees Tolerant to Juglone**

- Cherry, Nectarine, Peach, Plum (*Prunus* spp)
- Quince (*Cydonia oblongata*)

**Vines Tolerant to Juglone**

- Clematis (*Clematis* spp)
- Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)
- Wild Grape (*Vitis*)
- Wisteria (*Wisteria* spp)

**Herbaceous Flowers Tolerant to Juglone**

- Yarrow (*Achillea* spp)
- Hosta (*Hosta* spp)
- Bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*)
- Spanish Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanicus*)
- Hollyhock (*Alcea rosea*)
- St. John's Wort (*Hypericum* spp)
- Anemone (*Anemone* spp)
- Morning Glory (*Ipomoea* spp)
- Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)
- Iris (*Iris* spp)
- European Wild Ginger (*Asarum europaeum*)
- Shasta Daisy (*Leucanthemum x superbum*)
- Aster (*Aster* spp)
- Liriope or Lilyturf (*Liriope* spp)
- Astilbe (*Astilbe* spp)
- Lobelia (*Lobelia* spp)
- Fibrous and Tuberous Begonia (*Begonia*)
- Virginia Bluebell (*Mertensia pulmonariodes*)
- Pot Marigold (*Calendula officinalis*)
- Bee Balm (*Monarda* spp)
- Bellflower (*Campanula latifolia*)
- Grape Hyacinth (*Muscari botryoides*)
- Glory of the Snow (*Chionodoxa lucilae*)
- Daffodil (*Narcissus* spp)
- Chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum* spp)
- Primrose and Sundrops (*Oenothera* spp)
- Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)
- Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)
- Crocus (*Crocus* spp)
- Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)
- Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)
- Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)
- Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra* spp)
- Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium reptans*)
- Leopard's Bane (*Doronicum* spp)
- Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum commutatum*)
- Crested Wood Fern (*Dryopteris cristata*)

*Continued from page 6*

- Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)
- Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
- Primrose (*Primula* spp)
- Epimedium (*Epimedium* spp)
- Lungwort (*Pulmonaria* spp)
- Winter Aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*)
- Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)
- Dog's Tooth Violet (*Erythronium* spp)
- Siberian or Blue Squill (*Scilla siberica*)
- Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*)
- Stonecrop (*Sedum acre*, *Sedum spectabile*)
- Sweet Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*)
- Lamb's Ear (*Stachys byzantia*)
- Gentian (*Gentian* spp)
- Meadowrue (*Thalictrum* spp)
- Cranesbill Geranium (*Geranium sanguineum*)
- Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*)
- Sunflower and Jerusalem Artichoke (*Helianthus* spp)
- Trillium (*Trillium* spp)
- Christmas Rose (*Helleborus* spp)
- Globeflower (*Trollius* spp)
- Common Daylily (*Hemerocallis* spp)
- Tulips (*Tulipa* spp)
- Coral Bells (*Heuchera* spp)
- Pansy and Violet (*Viola* spp)
- Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium auranticum*)
- Zinnia (*Zinnia* spp)

Prepared by Dan Roman, former Northampton County master gardener; and Jim Sellmer, professor of ornamental horticulture

## **The ECSONG Winter Meeting and AGM 2018** By Shelley Adams

The ECSONG Winter Meeting and AGM was held on January 20, 2018 in Ottawa. It featured four presentations, various displays, a seed exchange, and a variety of nutty snacks. Gordon Wilkinson, ECSONG Chair, opened the meeting and acted as Master of Ceremonies.

The first presentation was given by Jo Saunders, an ECSONG member. Her inspirational and humorous slide show set the tone for the meeting and showed the importance of trees to every aspect of life.

Roman Popadiuk, a forestry research scientist, was the second presenter. He reviewed a wide range of nut trees - hazelnuts, oaks, chestnuts, beeches, walnuts and hickories - and identified the nut trees with the greatest promise for commercial production in our area. These are European hazelnuts from more northerly areas of Europe and heartnuts. Roman explained that a tree of commercial merit must be sufficiently hardy and produce large nuts that are easily removed from their shell.

During the break, members and guests enjoyed coffee and a variety of snacks and viewed the various displays on nut trees, nut crackers, and squirrels. The seed exchange, which distributed free seed to attendees for planting in the spring, has become a new initiative for ECSONG and helps support its mandate to foster the planting of nut trees in our region.

The third presentation was given by Bernard Contré, the owner of a nut tree nursery called Pépinière Lafeuillée in Joliette, Quebec. He provided an update on the varieties of hazelnuts he has developed and also discussed chestnuts, buartnuts, Korean nut pines, shagbark hickories, and black walnuts growing at his site. He also provided some tips on how to propagate hazelnut trees by layering and how to graft walnut trees in the spring.

Gordon Wilkinson gave the final presentation and spoke about his heartnut grove east of Clarence. He provided interesting statistics on the severity of low winter temperatures at his site, length of the frost-free period, tree height, annual average tree growth and nut production. He also reviewed ECSONG's Hardy Heartnut project located on a one-acre plot on his land. Survival rates have been poor – about 1% of the 5,000 heartnut seeds planted by ECSONG in 2010. Gordon intends to re-plant as heartnut seed becomes available from his trees or from other suppliers. In response to a question on whether he has seen insect damage on his heartnut trees, Gordon noted that he has seen minimal damage on leaves and nuts from butternut curculio and, during the drought of 2016, one grafted heartnut tree yielding nuts had its leaves covered with walnut lace bugs.

Gordon also presented a short slideshow of the September 23<sup>rd</sup> ECSONG Bus Tour. ECSONG is planning another bus tour for 2018 and Gordon encouraged members to participate in this fun, inspiring, and educational activity.

The final part of the meeting saw all of the executive members re-acclaimed to their positions and Bill Watt nominated and accepted as a new Councillor.

To close off the meeting, René Gauthier, a member of CPNCQ, provided a presentation of his specially designed nut crackers.

The meeting was a great success and ECSONG looks forward to another productive year ahead.

## Colossal Shagbark Hickory Tree in Inverary, Ontario by Gord Wilkinson

Jim Ronson and Gordon Wilkinson travelled to Inverary, Ontario on December 5th to measure a colossal shagbark hickory tree on the farm of John Williamson. Its circumference at breast height measured 3.02 metres. Its diameter at breast height (DBH) measured 96.2 cm. This beats the Canadian record of 95 cm for a shagbark hickory that grew in Backus Woods Conservation Area, north of Port Rowan, Ontario that has since been toppled in a storm. The Inverary shagbark tree lost the top part of its trunk many years ago, so its height was not measured. The owner has contacted Forests Ontario in the hope that this tree will be named a Heritage Tree.

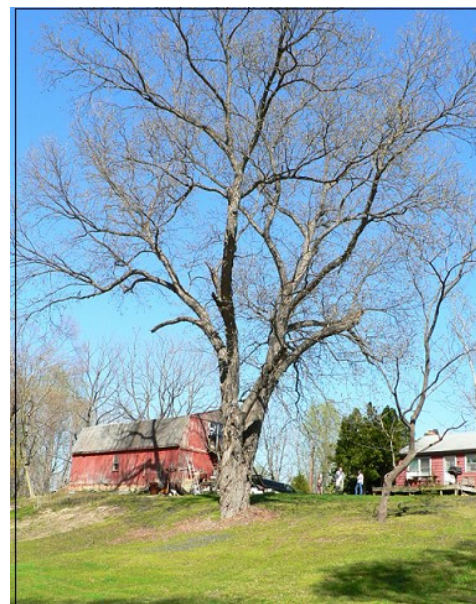
The girth of the Inverary shagbark hickory tree very slightly exceeds the girth of the champion shagbark hickory trees reported for Europe.

Jim contacted 'American Forests', an organization in the United States that lists Champion Trees to verify the circumference of 191 inches (4.85 metres) for their champion shagbark hickory tree in Maryland.

(see: [https://www.monumentaltrees.com/en/trees/shagbark\\_hickory/records/](https://www.monumentaltrees.com/en/trees/shagbark_hickory/records/)).



Ontario's largest shagbark hickory tree in Inverary



America's largest shagbark Hickory tree in Maryland

### THE BANNERMAN HEARTNUT by Ernie Grimo

Glenn Bannerman was an a hands on nut enthusiast. He was gung ho on growing nut trees and often pushed the envelope. His most recent efforts were devoted to collecting and processing the wild black walnuts in the Hamilton/Burlington area. To this end, he built a black walnut huller placed on a trailer so he could hull the nuts on or near the site where he collected them. Unfortunately he passed away before any of his dreams were realized.

Glenn convinced me to start collecting black walnuts in the Niagara area and process the nuts. I have been doing this now for over 20 years in a effort to show that Glenn's idea had merit.

Glenn drew my attention to a heritage heartnut tree in Burlington, ON near his home. It is probably the largest

healthy heartnut tree in Ontario and maybe eastern North America. I took the picture soon after Glenn told me where it was located and measured it at that time. My first wife Marion is pictured hugging the tree about 1/3 of the way around.

The tree measured 3.14 m (10' 4") in Circumference DBH. I paced the diameter of the tree spread at 33 paces. This would be about 30 m (100'). I estimate the tree to be well over 100 years of age. I passed by the tree last year and it appeared healthy.



Heritage Heartnut Tree, Plains Rd, Burlington, ON, 315 cm cir.



## **Black Walnut Culture and Use in Eastern Ontario** by Gordon Wilkinson ECSONG Chair

**Culture:** According to range maps, black walnut is native to only a very small part of Eastern Ontario in an area around Morrisburg along the St. Lawrence River (see map below). It is not at all clear how this isolated population of black walnut developed, but the Iroquois, who lived along the St. Lawrence well before the arrival of Europeans and who practised agriculture, may have introduced black walnut into the area from seed collected further south.

Black walnut has been widely planted in Eastern Ontario and has adapted well to the region's soil and severe winter cold as shown by the large number of dots on the map below. Each dot represents a location where black walnut has been planted at some point over the past 100 or more years. Mature black walnut trees grow in parks, along streets, and on lawns in cities, towns and villages throughout the region, for instance, Ottawa, Cumberland, and Perth. Black walnut grows as far north as Pansy Park in Pembroke and on Calumet Island, where it is believed to have been planted by indigenous peoples<sup>1</sup>. Black walnut trees were planted by ECSONG members many years ago in public nut groves such as Filmore R. Park and Oak Valley. Many ECSONG members and others have planted black walnut trees on their private property. The scale of these plantings ranges from as few as a handful of black walnut trees to well over 1,000 trees. Over the past few decades, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority has reforested numerous private landholdings by planting at each site as many as 200 to 3,000 black walnut seedlings mixed with other tree species<sup>2</sup>.

The largest black walnut plantation that we are aware of was established by the late Neil Thomas on his farm in Mallorytown. He planted over 2,000 black walnut seedlings and in 2010 published a technical analysis of his approach to black walnut nut production called *Biomass Nut Production in Black Walnut: Exploring Management*. The new owners of Neil's farm have preserved his black walnut plantation. They have been recently contacted by phone and it is our hope that they will get back to us and allow us to visit their farm.

**Uses:** The Iroquois who lived along the St. Lawrence River consumed a wide variety of edible nuts, including black walnut<sup>3</sup>. Black walnut was either eaten raw, incorporated into other foods, such as cornmeal bread, or processed into oil. Modern day use of black walnut in Eastern Ontario is minimal at best. Private owners have planted black walnut trees either for nuts, wood, some combination of nuts and wood, or for biodiversity/reforestation. The difficulties associated with removing the husk, cleaning the nut, cracking the nut, and extracting the nut meat and the absence of any machinery in the region to mechanize these steps means that the use of black walnuts for food is limited to the very few enthusiasts willing to collect and process black walnuts by hand for their own consumption. The techniques for hand processing are varied. One ECSONG member<sup>4</sup> added his method in three separate videos on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6F4TGpGwZS8>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tW7j9zaPZaY> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aA14VuaKW9Y>

The late Neil Thomas, with the assistance of two students at Algonquin College in Ottawa, succeeded in developing a nut cracking/sorting machine. This machine was given to Kemptville College at the time of his death. With the subsequent closure of this college, the whereabouts of this machine is not known. Nor is it known whether Neil Thomas was able to correct some flaws in its design that were noted by one long time ECSONG member<sup>5</sup>.

**Hidden Harvest**, a volunteer organization dedicated to harvesting fruits and nuts growing in Ottawa's urban environment that would otherwise go to waste, has nut enthusiasts who have collected black walnuts in the past, but processing difficulties have prevented them from using these nuts for food. Black walnuts stored from harvests as far back as 2013 have since been distributed to squirrels!

In the village of Cumberland there is a local artisan bakery and café called the Black Walnut Bakery. Unfortunately, it does not utilize black walnuts in any of its recipes. It is named after the black walnut trees that grow profusely there.

Black walnut could be used widely as a food source in Eastern Ontario if mechanized processing systems on a scale consistent with harvest volumes in our region could be purchased or developed economically. Several local bakeries and a major ice cream company have expressed interest in offering Christmas specialty products if sufficient local nuts can be supplied. A small in-shell market could perhaps be developed if grafted material known for easy cracking nuts and cold hardiness were planted rather than seedlings. In the interim a healthy foodstuff remains unharvested under numerous mature black walnut trees to be consumed by squirrels or gathered by home owners or municipal workers for disposal (see cover photo).

1. According to Bob McKendry, an ECSONG member, his father, the late Ralph McKendry, got this information from the owner of the property on Calumet Island with mature black walnut trees.

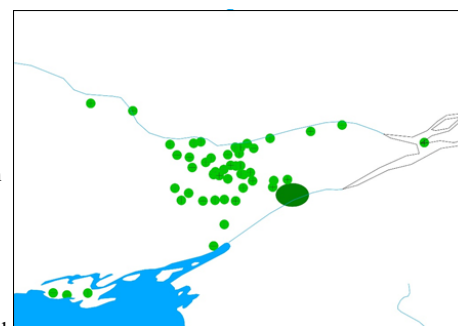
2. Scott Danford, Forestry Program Manager, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

3. F.W. Waugh, *Iroquois Foods and Food Preparation*, Ottawa: Canada Department of Mines, 1916, pp. 122-124.

4. William Watt, ECSONG Councillor

5. John Sankey, Past President, ECSONG

6. This map was produced by John Sankey using information on known black walnut sites in Eastern Ontario and is updated with new green dots as new black walnut sites are reported. The green blotch along the St. Lawrence River is derived from a range map for black walnut prepared by Ken Farr, author of *The Forests of Canada* (2003). That map is based upon the original walnut distribution map produced by Elbert L. Little Jr. for *Atlas of United States Trees* (1970), which specifically indicates the outlier occurrence of black walnut near Morrisburg, Ontario.



**Black Walnut Sites in Eastern Ontario**

## Classifieds

### Grimo Nut Nursery

In business since 1972, we are the only nursery in Canada that specializes in grafted and layered nut trees and a selection of grafted "orphan fruit trees". All listed cultivars are tested in our own orchards before we offer them for sale. While trees can be picked up at the nursery, we ship fresh dug bare root trees in the spring across Canada and the United States. A selection of potted trees are available all growing season long.

Free consultation is offered to customers.

Own rooted (layered or cloned) hazelnut trees are available for commercial growers. Grafted and seedling trees are available of heartnut, Persian walnut, black walnut, butternut, sweet chestnut, hazelnut, pecan, hickory, pine nut, and more including a selection of hybrids. Fruit trees offered include pawpaw, persimmon, mulberry, fig and quince. We also sell harvesting equipment, tree shelters, nut crackers and Ontario nuts and nut meats.

Our 10 page print catalogue is \$1 or two current Canadian letter stamps, but free for SONG members. Our new on-line catalogue is updated daily as items are sold out. For information or ordering:

**[www.grimonut.com](http://www.grimonut.com)**

**[nut.trees@grimonut.com](mailto:nut.trees@grimonut.com)**

**phone: (905)-Yeh-nuts**

**(905-934-6887) Fax: 905-935-6887**

**or write: Grimo Nut Nursery**

**979 Lakeshore Rd, RR #3**

**Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON**

**L0S 1J0**

### RHORA'S NUT FARM AND NURSERY

We have been in active business for over 39 years and Offer cold hardy trees (Climatic Zone 4) and all of the trees were tested in our orchards before offering them for sale. We are the only nursery in North America that offers as many Different varieties of Edible Nut Pines ranging from climatic Zone 1 – 9. We also offer our selection of nut trees and minor fruits. Trees of Persian Walnut, Japanese Heartnut, Japanese walnut, Black Walnut, Butternut, Buartnut, Chinese Chestnut, Japanese walnut, American Chestnut, Hazelnut (bush type), Trazel, India Tree Hazel, Chinese Tree Hazel, Turkey tree Hazel, Hickories (4 different types), Northern Pecan, Beech, hybrid sweet Oak, Ginkgo and others. Edible nut pines that we offer are: Korean, Armand, Swiss Stone, Swiss stone var. Siberica, Dwarf Siberian, Jeffrey, Russian cedar (Pinus siberica), Pinus Siberica f. humistrata, Pinus Siberica f. coronans, Pinus Siberica f. turosa, Macedonian, and others. Minor fruit trees offered include Paw Paw, Persimmon, Beech plum, Mulberry, Chinese Dogwood, Elderberry, Sea Buckthorn, & Cornelian cherry.

We also offer a variety of Rare & Unusual trees & Shrubs. We also offer solid state pest controls and harvesting equipment for sale.

We only Spring ship freshly dug bare rooted trees. Pick up can be arranged as well. Please visit our website for our online catalogue for more detailed information about the above listed trees. Those wanting a printed 22 page catalogue is available for \$5.00 which is refundable when placing an order.

To contact us about ordering: **[www.nuttrees.com](http://www.nuttrees.com)**

**rhoras@nuttrees.com, phone or fax 905-899-3508, or write us: Rhora's Nut Farm & Nursery, 33083 Wills Road, R. R. #1, Wainfleet, Ontario L0S 1V0**

...**MEMBERSHIP** benefits in the Society of Ontario Nut Growers (SONG) & ECSONG (Eastern Chapter of SONG) include three yearly newsletters, along with 3 annual meetings in two regions, set to satisfy the needs of both the commercial growers and the hobbyists. For an added bonus, **new members** will receive SONG'S own nut growing manual, *Nut Tree Ontario, A Practical Guide*, a \$20 value, **free**, when you take out a three-year, \$45 membership. Simply ask for your free copy when joining SONG. For added information, view the ECSONG handbook at <http://www.songonline.ca/ecsong/>. Fill out the tear off below and send to: **SONG/ECSONG, Gordon Chinnick, Treasurer, 53-3339 Council Ring Rd, Mississauga, ON L5L 2A9**. Your cancelled cheque is your receipt. **Dues can also be paid by e-transfer to: [song.treasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:song.treasurer@yahoo.com)**.

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