

Issue 112

Sept. 2018

SONGNEWS

*The Newsletter of the Society of Ontario Nut Growers
Eastern Chapter of the Society of Ontario Nut Growers*

WWW.SONGONLINE.CA



NNGA Tour at Alain Perreault's Orchard



Two Persian walnutbuds were placed on black walnut, both took (at 10' up)



Gil Cyr's NNGA Tour of his Plantings



Gordon Wilkinson is crowned the NNGA's honorary "Big Nut" by last year's recipient Tom Molnar, from Rutgers, NJ

If you Haven't Renewed

Its time for your annual membership. Check your envelope for the year you are paid up. You can renew for 2019 now! 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*

Bill Watt - *Nepean Creek*

NUTS ABOUT HEARTNUT COOKING

This unique cookbook is the
only book dedicated solely to
the heartnut. 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
Gordon for prices. Send
cheque made out to SONG to:

Gordon Chinnick, Treasurer
53-3339 Council Ring Rd,
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Inside this issue:

Coming Events	3
Welcome to new Executives	4
Hazelnut Research - G. Slate	5-7
Notice of Motion	8
ECSONG Budding Session	8
The NNGA Conference in Quebec	9
Top-working Walnut trees	9
Classifieds	10
Membership form	10

Library Corner - Gord Wilkinson

This part of the page will be open
by the New Year to members who
would like reference information or
articles written by NNGA or
SONG/ECSONG members. By then
Gordon will have a nearly complete
set of NNGA Annual Reports.

SONG/ECSONG ARCHIVE

Have you visited ECSONG?
Click the tab at the bottom of
the SONG website to see the
work that was done there? If
you click on the SONGNEWS
tab, you will be impressed to
find all of the SONGNEWS
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. Enjoy!

Coming Events

ECSONG BUS TOUR

Given the success of last year's ECSONG Bus Tour, it was unanimously agreed by the ECSONG Executive to arrange for another bus tour this year. Participants will have the opportunity to view nut trees at new sites, learn about the operations of the Ferguson Forestry Centre and visit the Butternut Archive and learn about the strategy to save the butternut from the ravages of the butternut canker.

DATE: Saturday, September 15th

TIME & PICKUP LOCATION:

(1) For those joining in Kemptville, please meet at the Ferguson Forestry Centre, 275 44, Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0 by 8:00 a.m. Bus departs at 8:15 a.m.

(2) For those joining in Ottawa, please meet at the Tropical Greenhouse, Maple Drive (part of the Experimental Farm at 960 Carling Ave.), by 8:45 a.m. Bus departs at 9:00 a.m.

COST: \$25 per person for SONG members and family; \$30 for non-members. Please make cheques or money orders payable to Gordon Wilkinson and mail to 728 Stiles Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario, K1J 6Z1.

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).

SONG ANNUAL MEETING

Arrangements are still being made and speakers have yet to be selected. The date is tentatively set for Wednesday, March 6, 2019 from 9:30 to 3:30 pm. Plan ahead to be at this technical meeting of SONG.

SPRING AUCTION MEETING

Our meeting has not been well attended at the Simcoe Experiment Station Hall. Better attendance seemed to be in or near Toronto. We are open to suggestions for a suitable location for a tentative Saturday May 4 or Sunday, May 5, 2019 date. Please contact Ernie Grimo or John Flys if you have a good location in mind.

NEW SONG EXECUTIVES

I am pleased to welcome our new Treasurer, Gordon Chinnick, who has recently taken over this position. I would also like to welcome Gordon Wilkinson as our SONG Librarian. This is a new position. We are looking for volunteers and nominees for our executive. All offices are open, including the President. Contact President Ernie Grimo by phone 905-934-6887 or email: ernie.grimo@yahoo.com as a volunteer or with nominations.

Gordon Wilkinson appointed as SONG librarian –Ernie Grimo

A new office of SONG has been created. It is the position of SONG Librarian. Gordon Wilkinson has agreed to take on the responsibility of this office.

Robert Hambleton who was our first SONG Secretary passed away, and his family wanted me to have his near complete set of the Northern Nut Grower's Association Annual reports that go back to 1910 when NNGA was formed. I will donate it to SONG in Gordon Wilkinson's care. He will take on the responsibility of providing email copies of articles to members and researchers alike. Gordon will have a part of a page in our newsletter to list topics or authors covered in the annuals. He will take on the responsibility of listings.

For those who wish to have more information on what is available in the annuals may purchase a copy of the index from the NNGA Librarian, Jerry Henkin. The index of NNGA Annual Reports from 1910 – 1974 that can lead you to other helpful articles is available for purchase from the NNGA. Go to <https://nutgrowing.org/nnga-library/> The Annual Report Index is available for purchase at \$6.50. Add \$1.50 for each non-US order to defray the cost of postage. All prices are quoted in US dollars and are for prepaid orders.

An up-to-date index of articles in the Annual Report, post 1974 is coming soon. After 2013, the annual reports were reformatted. Submitted articles were included in a section of the NNGA quarterly newsletter to save costs.

An index of the NNGA newsletter, *the Nutshell*, is available for articles from 1975 through 2013 in the Membership Area of the NNGA website for use by members.

I am sure most SONG members don't know this, but there is another nearly full set of annual reports is on deposit at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario. It was donated by a long time NNGA member from Virginia, H. F. Stoke. At the time it was donated, a librarian was on staff at the RBG. Once she retired, the set has been less accessible. However, I am sure if there are any members that would like to research articles in the RBG, it would be possible for them.

Another source of some of the NNGA annual reports is on the Guttenberg website. This can be accessed by: www.gutenberg.org/ . Twenty-four issues were published there.

The article on the following page was originally published in the NNGA 1947 annual Report, was by George Slate. He was the lead research breeder at the Geneva Experiment Farm in Geneva, NY. He introduced a dozen or more hazelnut hybrid cultivars, the best of which are now named by the Grimo Nut Nursery as 'Gene', 'Slate', 'Linda' and 'Cheryl'. The following is his report on the breeding work, starting on page 5 .

HAZELNUT REASERCH: George L. Slate, NY Agricultural Experiment Station

taken from the 1947 NNGA Annual Report pp 95-101 published in the Guttenberg Project website: www.guttenberg.org/ebooks/22721

This paper reports the results of attempts to improve filberts by hybridization at the Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y. The filbert project was started at Geneva in the spring of 1925 when a collection of varieties from American sources was established. In later years additional varieties from European and other sources were added until about 120 were under test. As soon as the varieties had fruited for several years it became evident that many of them were inferior and not adapted to New York conditions. A few exhibited considerable merit and the range of characteristics in the different varieties indicated that it might be worthwhile to start a filbert breeding project with the object of combining the desirable characteristics of the better sorts.

It was decided first to cross Rush, a selected form of *Corylus americana*, with the best varieties of *Corylus avellana*, Rush contributing the hardiness of the native hazel, possible resistance to filbert blight, and the hybrid vigor that sometimes results from the crossing of two species. The European filberts were expected to furnish large-sized nuts as well as dessert and cracking quality.

The first crosses were made in 1930 when two trees of the Rush variety growing on Dr. MacDaniels' place in Ithaca were pollinated with pollen of several varieties of *Corylus avellana* that was brought from Geneva. Additional crosses were made at Ithaca in 1931 and 1933. In 1932 the pollinations were made at Geneva, using a Barcelona tree covered with a tightly woven cloth. No pollinations have been made since 1933.

In the spring of 1932, 535 seedlings were received from Willard G. Bixby, of Baldwin, Long Island, N. Y., which had resulted from crosses made by C. A. Reed of the United States Department of Agriculture, at Baldwin. Including these U.S.D.A. seedlings and those resulting from the breeding work at Geneva, 1,999 seedlings have fruited.

The nuts from these crosses were stratified in sand in a cold frame, dug up, and planted in the greenhouse in early March. After one transplanting they were moved to the nursery to grow for two years, when they were moved to the seedling orchard. The nuts from one year's crosses were planted directly in the nursery but germination was low due to drought.

The seedlings were spaced 10 x 5 feet in the orchard. This spacing was satisfactory if the trees came into bearing the fourth year, but if unfavorable weather eliminated the first or second crops the trees became too crowded to permit satisfactory fruiting. Usually, however, the trees fruited sufficiently to make it possible to evaluate them and remove the inferior trees so that the better seedlings would have enough room to remain for several additional crops.

During the first few years the orchard was clean cultivated until cover crops were sown in August. In later years the orchards were not cultivated but nitrogen fertilization was substituted. Satisfactory growth was maintained, but the grass and weeds made harvesting more difficult. No pruning was done except at planting time as the seedlings were all evaluated before pruning was needed. Suckers were removed around the young trees, but as they became older this was not done and some of the plants now have several stems.

Evaluating the Seedlings

The nuts were harvested in the fall after they had dropped, or, with the later maturing seedlings and those which tended to cling to the tree, they were harvested by picking or shaking them from the tree. As soon as practicable the nuts were husked and the crop of each tree weighed and recorded. Samples of nuts of every seedling fruiting were placed on paper plates, each population being by itself, and eight or ten nuts of each sample were cracked and left on the plate. The seedlings were then divided into three classes, those that were obviously good, those that were poor, and an intermediate class that received further attention. The poor seedlings were marked for discard and if so marked for two or three years they were pulled out. The good seedlings were then examined more carefully and sorted into three groups, as follows: *continued on p.6*

Continued from page 5

1. Those that were outstanding in both nut and tree characters.
2. Those that were good enough to propagate for a second test, but not equal to the best.
3. Seedlings good enough to keep for further observation. These were usually good in one or more characteristics but deficient or doubtful in one important feature. If upon further testing these third group plants proved to be outstandingly productive or hardy they were given a higher rating.

In examining the nuts, emphasis was placed on size and color of the nut, the large, bright brown nuts being considered more desirable than the smaller, duller colored, pubescent nuts. The amount of space between the shell and the kernel was important. If the kernel fitted tightly it was easily broken or chipped in cracking the nut. Thickness of shell was of minor importance as only a few were thick enough to make cracking difficult.

The kernel characters were of most importance since the kernel is the reason for producing the nut. The kernel must be plump, smooth, light brown in color, and free of the superfluous pellicle, or fibrous material that is characteristic of the Barcelona kernels. Generally, seedlings with Rush as one parent had very little of this superfluous fibrous material and the best of them were much superior to Barcelona in appearance and dessert quality. Flavor received less consideration since most of the seedlings were reasonably good in that respect.

Given a good kernel, and there were many of them, it became necessary to rely upon other characteristics to eliminate the less desirable of these seedlings. It was here that the records of yields and catkin hardiness were valuable. After several years it became evident that certain seedlings were consistently high yielding while others were low yielding. Hardiness of catkin also varied greatly and rather consistently from year to year. Weather conditions influenced catkin killing greatly. Catkin hardiness is important since the pollen is necessary for nut production and must be present in abundance as its movement in the orchard is subject to the vagaries of the wind, and only a small percentage of that in the air ever comes in contact with the stigmas of the other varieties.

It is the purpose of this paper to indicate the value, insofar as it may be estimated from the available data, of the different varietal crosses in obtaining desirable filbert hybrids. Table 1 contains a list of crosses made, the number of seedlings raised, and the percentage of these which were of sufficient merit to be retained for further study. The percentage of seedlings propagated indicates even more definitely which crosses are of the greatest value in producing superior seedlings as only the outstanding seedlings were propagated for a second test. Selections included in Table 1 are there by virtue of their all-around merit.

Crosses between Rush and Littlepage and Rush and Winkler produced nothing of value. The populations were small, but other equally small populations from other crosses produced seedlings of value. The inter-crossing of selections of *Corylus americana* does not appear to be a promising line of attack in filbert breeding where hybrids with *C. Avellana* will thrive.

Rush and Barcelona were each used as seed parents in crosses with the same eight varieties. In the crosses involving Rush 1,232 seedlings were produced and of these 39, or 3.2%, were good enough to propagate. Of the 306 seedlings raised from the same varieties combined with Barcelona only 4, or 1.3% were worth propagating. None of these Barcelona seedlings are among the best. Under the conditions of the experiment it would seem that Rush is much superior to Barcelona as a parent in crosses with varieties of *Corylus Avellana*.

The cross between Kentish Cob and Cosford failed to produce any seedlings of outstanding merit.

In considering the productiveness and hardiness of the catkins of the seedlings resulting from the different crosses the data have been assembled in Tables 2 to 5, each table containing the summarized records for different plantings. These plantings were started at different times and the records are not directly comparable as they are for different years and varying lengths of time. In Table 1 the total number of seedlings is given, but in Table 2 to 5 only the data for the selections are used. Records for the selections are available for several years, whereas the inferior seedlings were discarded and limited data only are available. Furthermore, the filbert breeder is interested primarily in the worthwhile material that may be taken from populations of known parentage.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

Assuming that we have a fairly good nut, productiveness is the most important characteristic in a filbert. If the plant is productive it must of necessity be reasonably vigorous and hardy. For that reason much emphasis has been placed on productiveness in the final evaluation of the selections.

The selections in Table 2 are from the U.S.D.A. Bixby plants which were the first to fruit at Geneva. Considerable variation in productiveness is evident in the different populations. Rush x Kentish Cob and Rush x White Aveline selections were only about half as productive on the average as Rush x Barcelona, Bollwiller, Red Lambert, and Daviana. Rush x Italian Red also failed to produce high-yielding selections. In a later planting in the same orchard, as shown in Table 3, the Rush x Kentish Cob selections performed no better, the Rush x Red Lambert selections out yielding them by a substantial margin. The Barcelona x Italian Red selections were very low yielding.

In orchard 22, as shown in Table 4, where Rush and Barcelona are crossed with the same varieties, the resulting selections from the Rush crosses are about one third more productive if mean yields are considered, or one-half more productive if only highest yielding selections are considered than with the Barcelona crosses. Cosford has been outstanding in transmitting productiveness in crosses with Rush, Italian Red, and Nottingham. Rush x Kentish Cob selections in this orchard as in the other planting, were only about one half as productive on the average. In the crosses with Barcelona the combination with Medium Long, Red Lambert, and Italian Red were considerably more productive than crosses with Purple Aveline, Halle, Daviana, and Bollwiller.

The Kentish Cob x Cosford cross was less productive than most of the other combinations made. Kentish Cob definitely appears to transmit unproductiveness when crossed with Rush, Barcelona, and Cosford.

In orchard 8 as shown in Table 5, the trees soon became very crowded as the discards were not removed and the yield records were less reliable than in the other plantings.

Winterkilling of catkins were recorded on the selections for several years. In early April the percentage of winter-killed catkins was recorded by estimate. Tables 2 to 5 contain the mean of these estimates and a considerable variation in catkin hardiness in the different populations is evident. Red Lambert, which had the hardest catkins of any variety of *C. avellana* tried at Geneva, produced a higher proportion of catkin-hardy seedlings than any other variety. Cosford was fairly good in this respect and in orchard 16 Bollwiller, Italian Red, and Barcelona when crossed with Rush produced selections with moderately hardy catkins.

Winter injury of catkins was nearly always very high in crosses between varieties of *Corylus avellana*.

Of the 1,970 seedlings included in Table 1, 340 or 17%, were retained for further observation and of these, 52, or 2.6%, were considered good enough to propagate for a more extensive test. Of these 52 a few thus far have been outstanding when compared with the others. Possibly the best and most productive selection is No. 1265, Rush x Purple Aveline, that is the heaviest yielding of all and the nuts are also among the best, being of medium size, plump, and free from fiber. This seedling is far superior to any others from the same cross. Nos. 1408 and 1467, both selected from a Rush x Cosford population, are close seconds to No. 1265. In the Rush x Cosford population are several others nearly as good, the general level of merit in this combination being fairly high. Farther down the list, but still among the best, are No. 110 Rush x Kentish Cob, and No. 157, Rush x Barcelona. Filbert breeders working under similar conditions would probably find it worthwhile to make these crosses and also to produce more seedlings from Rush x Red Lambert than were raised at Geneva.

No crosses have been made at Geneva in recent years, but all of the nuts from the selections, sometimes several hundred pounds a year, have been planted by the Soil Conservation Service and the resulting seedlings planted in various parts of the country. Undoubtedly, if these could be examined when in fruit, some worthwhile selections could be made. Those in New York State will probably be worked over during the next few years.

Note: Information on the tables can be found by going to the Guttenberg website at www.guttenberg.org/ebooks/22721

Notice of Motion:

Motion presented by Ernest Grimo and seconded by John Sankey that: SONG provide a grant of \$2,000 to the hosting Quebec Nut Grower's (CPNCQ) to help defray the uncovered cost of the 2018 Northern Nut Growers Association meeting held from August 5-8, 2018 at Le Baluchon in St-Paulin, Quebec.

Background information: Most of the overage in cost is related to the cost of providing translation services for presentations. All presentations were to be made in English to reduce the need for further equipment and other added costs. An effort was made by Giulio Neri, President of CPNCQ to obtain a government grant to cover the cost that amounted to over \$8,000, but complications ensued and the funds were denied.

It was not part of the costs allocated to the NNGA, and so no further funds were provided. A number of private citizens have assisted with generous Donations, but still fall far short of the funds needed. Our proposed grant of \$2,000 will not cover the difference. It will cover only the cost of the equipment rental and taxes as shown on the invoice. SONG has adequate funds in savings to cover this cost and it will not increase our fees.

Mr. Neri has the following grants from individuals and groups:
AG Quebec \$1000, Cramer Nursery \$1000, Marco Olivier Harvey \$500, Jerry Henkens \$200, other nurseries \$400 and \$150 from the conference auction making a total of \$3,250.

The added cost for the meeting was considered justified because it attracted a group of young enthusiastic Francophones that otherwise would not have attended.

It is felt by the SONG executive that support of a fellow Canadian nut growing group deserves our assistance by providing financial support.

SONG members that wish to make a personal donation may contact Mr. Neri at g.neri@xittel.ca .

Procedure: The vote on the motion will take place at our fall SONG meeting during a brief business meeting. Members who will not be attending the meeting have the option of voting, preferably by emailing Ernie Grimo at ernie.grimo@yahoo.com or by phone: 905-934-6887 at least 3 days in advance of the meeting.

ECSONG Bud Grafting Session

On July 14th twenty ECSONG members and guests attended a bud grafting training session on the grounds of ECSONG Councillor and Membership Director John Adams and his wife Shelley. Attendees came from as far away as Kingston, Ontario and Riviere Beaudette near Montreal. The session was conducted by Doug Corrigan, a new ECSONG member who is very experienced with bud grafting fruit trees. Doug demonstrated all the fine details of bud grafting using the limbs of John's Russet apple tree as the "stock". Doug's technique is described as T-budding in the guide "Nut Tree Ontario: A Practical Guide". His demonstration was very interesting and informative. He encouraged everyone not to be intimidated by grafting. John Adams distributed special handouts on nut tree grafting techniques photocopied from various ECSONG/SONG articles and handbooks so that participants can learn more about the grafting techniques most appropriate for their nut trees. After the grafting session, John gave participants a tour of the many species of nut trees on his property. John also gave away potted nut tree and catalpa seedlings to those participants interested in planting these trees. The event concluded with a delicious hotdog and hamburger supper with condiments, drinks and nutty desserts provided by our generous hosts. It was a memorable and fun event and participants gained more confidence and knowledge about bud grafting from Doug Corrigan.

Editor's note: I made my first black walnut graft by using a 'T' bud in mid-August many years ago!.... Ernie

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by / par: Dany Bédard
Billing Address / Adresse de Facturation: Le Baluchon, St-Paulin
Date: Le 16 avril 2018
Client Contact: Giulio Neri Telephone: 514-979-0292 E-mail: g.neri@xittel.ca

Room(s) & Agenda(s) / Salle(s) et Agenda(s): Salle Noreste-France
Comments / Commentaires: Disposition: Style théâtre pour 125 personnes
Montage: Demanche 5-avril-2018, 18h17
Laptop installé à l'avant
Sujet: Agriculture

QUANT / QTE	DESCRIPTION	DAYS / JOURS	PRICE / PRIX	TOTAL
1	Système d'interprétation bilingue complet incluant: une cabine isolante, 2 consoles d'interprètes, 2 microphones, 2 écouteurs, 2 ventilateurs, 2 lampes, 2 emetteurs	2	225.00	450.00
50	Recepteurs multi-canaux avec écouteurs (Minimum de 50)	2	2.50	250.00
1	Console de son 6 entrées MACKIE	2	60.00	120.00
3	Microphones: 1 de podium, 2 de plancher sur pied	2	15.00	90.00
2	Haut-parleurs amplifiés QSC "K10" sur trépied	2	50.00	200.00
1	Éclairage graphique 31 bandes DBX "231"	2	25.00	50.00
1	Moto sans fil travail étou à main - SANS FRAIS - Valeur de \$150	2	2	2
1	Projecteur 3000 lumens	2	150.00	300.00
1	Table de projection avec jupe, câble VGA 50', rallonge AC	2	25.00	50.00
1	Écran 8' x 8' avec jupe	2	35.00	70.00
1	Laptop avec Windows 10	2	95.00	190.00
3 chambres et 2 repas pour le client, à compter du dimanche 5-avril-2018 pour 2 nuits, 1 tech, 2 interprètes				
Alex Sirois, interprète : # 573899 Lysianne Rondeau, interprète : #572892 Technicien LMB : (nom à confirmer plus tard) : #572800.				
Nouveau client: Doit payer par carte de crédit au plus tard le 2 août 2018				
(equipment(s) / équipement(s))			SUBTOTAL:	\$1,770.00
1	Représentant technique - Journée de 8 heures - \$45h	2	360.00	720.00
1	Livraison, installation: 1 tech, 5h @ \$45h - Minimum	1	225.00	225.00
1	Démontage & ramassage: 1 tech, 3h @ \$45h - Minimum	1	135.00	135.00
140	Kios: transport équipement & technicien - Mtl->Saint-Paulin	2	0.95	266.00
2	Interprètes bilingues français <-> English	2	650.00	2600.00
140	Kios: transport 1 interprète - Mtl->Saint-Paulin	2	0.45	126.00
110	Kios: transport Lysianne Rondeau - Victoriaville->Saint-Paulin	2	0.45	99.00
			SUBTOTAL:	\$5,963.50
			9% TPS:	258.16
			9.975% TVQ:	594.86
			TOTAL	\$6,816.52
			GST / TPS: 142148711	
			GST / TVQ: 102086109	

Refer to the TERMS & CONDITIONS on the following page upon reserving equipment and personnel required for this quotation.
De rapporter aux TERMES ET CONDITIONS de la page suivante lors de la réservation de l'équipement et du personnel requis pour la présente soumission.

DATE: _____ APPROVED BY / APPROUVÉ PAR: _____
DATE: _____ CLIENT SIGNATURE / SIGNATURE CLIENT: _____

The NNGA Conference in Quebec Was a Resounding Success

The Nut Producer's Club of Quebec was the host to the 109th Annual Conference of the Northern Nut Growers Association, which took place early August at Le Baluchon Eco Resort in Saint-Paulin, Quebec. For the first time ever there were conference participants from members of the NNGA, CPNCQ, SONG, and ESONG. One attendee from Russia also gave a talk. All scientific and technical presentations, and conference events (show and tell, kiosks, auction presentations and Banquet), took place in the same hall where French translation services were provided. A sample of the presentation topics were; hazelnut production and marketing strategies, hazelnuts in cold climates, heartnuts in eastern Ontario, the American Chestnut in Canada, commercial Chinese chestnut growing; disease resistance for butternut; the nutrition and health benefits of nuts and lots more. A full day tour of nurseries, nut orchards, the varied plantings of nut tree hobbyist closed the Conference. Almost equally divided from northern US, Ontario and Quebec, over 110 participants took part in this activity, which has strengthened the possibilities of nut growing in northern climates. All presentations will be made available this fall. Thank you to all our sponsors. Giulio Neri, President CPNCQ

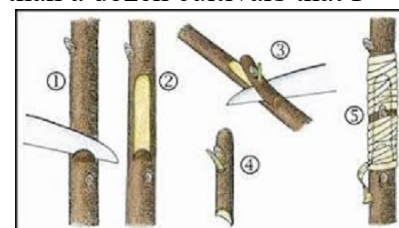
Topworking Black Walnut at Ten Feet by Ernie Grimo

On an NNGA tour in Michigan in the 1970's, we visited Corwin Davis' place. He was a grower that had a Persian walnut grafted on a black walnut about 8 or more feet above the ground that was about a foot in diameter. I remembered this tree and when I bought my farm. I decided that I would grow most of my Persian walnut trees this way. After all wouldn't it be better to have a dual purpose tree, a tree that grew a veneer 8 foot log and all the while producing a valuable Persian walnut crop?

I knew that by growing the black walnut to 10 or more feet tall was going to slow nut production, but with a full time job I wasn't concerned about early production. Besides, I wanted to make sure I had a good variety of cultivars to test. This hadn't been done in my area and for nursery propagation I needed to know what the best cultivars were. This task is still ongoing, but I have narrow it down to less than a dozen cultivars that I consider have merit.

I started by planting one year old black walnut seedlings in an orchard pattern. As the years passed, side branches were gradually removed, and terminal branches that were damaged were replaced with upright, braced side branches to ensure that the basic veneer log was straight.

When the tree reached the 12 foot (or more) height, I used a technique called "greenwood budding", "June budding" or "juvenile tissue grafting". It was done near the end of June when the sap flow in the young trees stops and the outdoor temperatures are warm. These are good condition for grafting or budding, though budding works best. It works well on new wood or on one to two year old growth of the stock tree. Internet pictures are shown here to picture the process of budding. The only difference is that green buds are used with several leaflets attached. On small diameter wood I often used what I call the 'barn door' bud graft. The graft shown was placed on the Cambium surface after the cuts are made to remove a piece of bark where the bud will go.



Care is needed to choose buds that are 'cabbage like' in appearance and not 'pine cone' looking. The latter are catkin buds and will not produce the desired shoot growth. Bud wood should also be taken from vigorous growing green shoots.

I usually left half of the compound leaf on the bud patch to stimulate callousing. The bud was tied firmly with 7 inch long rubber budding strips making sure that almost all cut surfaces were covered. The leaflet attached to the bud was slid into a flip top plastic sandwich bag and wrapped around the branch to ensure the bud was completely covered. Another budding strip was used to tie the bag on securely and also to prevent movement. To encourage growth and prevent breakage of the weak budded branch, half of the new growth was cut off.

After 3 weeks, the covering was removed to examine the amount of callousing, and if the bud was still green and alive. If the bud was well heeled in, then the covering was left off. At this point a decision needed to be made whether to cut more of the branch away along with some side branches to cause the newly stimulated tree to push the bud into growth, or wait until spring to force the bud.

Note: Space is limited so I will continue with this procedure in the next issue of SONG News.... Ernie Grimo

Classifieds

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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
nut.trees@grimonut.com
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...**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:

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