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September  
2019

# SONGNEWS

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

**WWW.SONGONLINE.CA**

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## 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. For special quantity price, contact: Gordon Chinnick, Treasurer, 722 6th Concession Rd, Walsingham, ON N0E 1X0

**SONG Website:** [www.songonline.ca](http://www.songonline.ca)

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

Send your free posting to: Ernie Grimo, President, 979 Lakeshore Rd, RR3, Niagara/Lake, On L0S 1J0 or  
Nut.trees@grimonut.com

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## Library Corner - Gord Wilkinson

This part of the page is open to members who would like reference information or articles written by NNGA or SONG/ECSONG members. Gordon has a nearly complete set of NNGA Annual Reports and a complete set of SONG News issues to research.

## 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!

## 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 2020 now! Please renew now.

## Coming Events

### SONG 2018 FALL MEETING

**ATTENDANCE** is free. All are welcome. A barbeque lunch will be provided.

**DATE:** September 14, 2019

**TIME:** 12 noon to 4 pm

**PLACE:** The meeting is at the farm of Earl Hughson & Roselyn Meissner. They have a beautiful location with a young hazelnut orchard at Nutcracker Ridge Farm, 10079 Regional Rd 1, Uxbridge ON L9P 1R2. From the town of Uxbridge take Main St. N. It becomes Regional Rd 1. Follow the lot markers to 10079.

**AGENDA:** Lunch will be followed by grower reports, a follow up of the Grimo Hazelnut Breeding Project, an introduction to Nutcracker Ridge Farm and a farm tour. Other local historical and educational sites may be added attractions. We welcome members to host or suggest locations for our fall meetings. Check the website for up to date information.

### SONG ANNUAL MEETING

Arrangements are still being made and speakers have yet to be selected. The date is tentatively set for Wednesday, March 4 or 11, 2020 from 9:30 to 3:30 pm. Plan ahead to be at this technical meeting of SONG.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Ernie Grimo

The Northern Nut Growers Association (NNGA) annual meeting from July 28-31 was a stimulating success as always. This was a combined meeting with NAFEX, The North American Fruit Explorers with concurrent presentations. Attendees could choose which room to visit to round out their experience. I recommend it as a summer trip to all serious nut growers. I have been making the journey with three missing years since 1968. Each year I came away with new experiences and ideas.

At the meetings, researchers, nurserymen and hobbyists all across the US and Canada shared their knowledge and expertise. During the presentations and in between, novices and growers rub shoulders with renowned experts and scientists. Two days of presentations were terminated by an all-day bus tour of fruit and nut growers, including the Red Fern Farm, a fruit and nut nursery and u-pick farm.

ECSONG chairman, Gordon Wilkinson was in attendance too. We had interesting conversations about the future of nut growing in Eastern Ontario. We decided that there was great potential for our native species including black walnut, northern hazel hybrids, shagbark hickory and butternut, particularly the butternut/heartnut hybrids. It is important where possible to use selected parent seed sources that originate locally or at least from a similar hardy zone.

I want to remind everyone that our March meeting is our election meeting year let me know if you are interested in standing for a position on the executive of SONG. We need some new faces to carry SONG along. I would like to stand down as President. On the other hand I would still be ready to participate as Past President where needed.

## **Hazelnut Status Report** J. F. Kelsey - - - 2019 Feb 27

The European hazel *Corylus avellana* is the common hazel of Europe, western Asia, and is the commercial hazelnut species worldwide. The smaller American hazel species, *Corylus Americana*, grows in eastern North America and is not a commercial species. *C. Americana* hosts the fungal disease Eastern Filbert Blight “EFB” to which it is immune. The commercial *C. avellana* species, however, is sensitive to the EFB. The only area of commercial hazelnut production in North America is near the Pacific coast, well outside the native range of the *C. Americana*, the EFB host.

Despite quarantines the EFB appeared in the western commercial region sometime in the mid 1900s and slowly began decimating commercial hazel orchards. Growers fought back with chemicals and an aggressive breeding program at Oregon State University.



Tree breeding is a slow process and chemicals slowed the disease while researchers developed new resistant varieties. One resistant European variety (Gassaway) was discovered, which became the anchor of the OSU (sorry Buckeyes and Cowboys) breeding program. Several new varieties were tested and released by OSU, mostly with the Gassaway resistance gene. Western EFB infected orchards were, and continue to be, ripped out and replanted with new OSU's releases. Also, OSU continues to develop new releases with further EFB resistance and other improved characteristics.

It doesn't take a genius to light on the idea “If EFB is whipped, why not an eastern hazelnut industry?” Of course there were some minor obstacles like: no agricultural plan, no knowledge base, unknown pest and climate pressures, and no market infrastructure. Eastern hobbyist and nurseries began planting the OSU material and two major eastern breeding programs were started.

(Continued on page 6)

## **Hazelnuts a Super Food** –Ernie Grimo

Hazelnuts are naturally a super food. Packed with healthy fats, disease fighting properties and flavor, they may be a better snack for you than more mainstream nuts.

Here are 3 benefits of Hazelnuts:

-Hazelnuts reduce the risk of heart disease. Because they are low in saturated fats and moderately high in heart healthy fats, eating them daily can reduce the risk of heart disease.

-Hazelnuts are one of the highest natural sources of antioxidants. This means that eating them can help clean out toxins that have built up in the blood stream.

-Hazelnuts can help you produce energy. Containing B2, a vitamin that plays a huge role in the production of energy, eating them can help regulate your body's energy levels.

So in conclusion – eat hazelnuts. 😊

## **Nepean Creek Nut Grove** **By: Bill Watt, Grove Coordinator**

In order to better promote tree nut growing in the eastern Ontario region, ECSONG in collaboration with a number of public land managers, has established and developed several public nut groves for research and demonstration purposes. ECSONG members have volunteered to be coordinators at six of these public groves. The article below is the first in what is hoped will be a series of articles written by ECSONG grove coordinators to help make some of these public nut groves in Eastern Ontario better known to SONG members.

The Nepean Creek nut grove is situated on City of Ottawa land along Nepean Creek. In 2000 the creek was scooped out to make storm water settlement ponds and a paved recreation path was installed. In 2004 some bur oak, red oak, and black walnut bare root seedlings left over from a volunteer tree planting by the Friends of the Carp River were planted beside the path by myself as shade trees. A message was sent to the city councilor for the ward and to the city tree bureaucrats. A report is sent each year to let them know what I am doing. An article was published on the ECSONG website describing the strategy used for planting on public property: ([http://www.songonline.ca/ecsong/essays/urban\\_nut\\_groves.html](http://www.songonline.ca/ecsong/essays/urban_nut_groves.html)). The public path is used by many people and offers an opportunity to display trees to the public. Because the seedlings are on the same route as my daily walk, I was able to monitor and care for them. Tasks included watering, weeding, and protection from wildlife. Consequently, the seedlings have done quite well. Eight years later one black walnut bore 13 nuts which were gathered and planted along the creek. Since then squirrels have eaten any nuts before they mature. Large black walnuts were collected on the Central Experimental Farm and planted. Acorns from English and Bebb's oaks were also collected from the Dominion Arboretum, sprouted in seed trays, and

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### **Grimo Hazelnut Breeding Project Harvest Follow Up** - Ernie Grimo

The breeding project that began last fall and reported in SONG News in the April issue is now at the harvest stage of the crosses. Linda and I paired and isolated five 'Gamma' hazels with five identified seedlings and cultivars that were in large pots established for a year. The trees were stored in an insulated unheated barn that seldom dropped in temperature more than one degree below freezing. We have some results, not the expected numbers of seed but only seed from two of the northern hazel parents.

Very few nuts developed from the five 'Gamma' trees and none on the 'Cheryl', 'Aldara' or 'Northern Blais'. It is not clear why more nuts did not develop on the 'Gamma' trees. 'Gamma' had numerous flowers showing as early as February and the flowers appeared to be receptive when the pollen shed occurred from the paired trees. We did notice that the interior of the plastic tent isolating the pairs had moisture on the inside surface. It may be that the catkins or female flowers were affected by the high humidity in all of the trees.

We also noted that the 'C. heterophylla' hybrid was very late in developing female flowers and the catkins opened late also, long after 'Gamma' had shed. By late March we realized that it was too late to pollinize 'Gamma' in the tent because the females were past their fertile stage, but we had a chance to pollinize its partner, 'C. heterophylla', whose female blooms were reaching the receptive stage. The paired potted trees stored inside reached the flowering stage earlier than the outdoor orchard trees, so this gave us the opportunity to make the cross. Dormant branches from 'Gamma' in the orchard trees were collected and the cut ends were placed in a small container of water. The container with the branches was then placed in a large paper bag and stored at room temperature. Overnight the catkins opened and began releasing pollen. The 'Gamma' pollen branches were then placed in the tent to pollinize the 'C. heterophylla'. This action resulted in the pollinizing of the 4 clusters.

'Gamma' has alleles 2 and 10. If 'Aldara' and 'Northern Blais' share one of these allele numbers, we can determine that incompatibility was the problem. Since we do not have the alleles identified on the 'Aldara' or 'Northern Blais' trees yet, we can't be sure. 'Cheryl' has alleles 10 and 12. It was my mistake to use 'Cheryl' as a match with 'Gamma' since they both share the allele 10, so this can explain the lack of nuts on these trees.

We collected seed nuts from 4 clusters on the 'Corylus heterophylla' hybrid and nuts from the 53 clusters on the 'Gibson S15' tree. We decided against hurrying the germination process by gently cracking the nuts and soaking them in a solution of gibberellic acid, since we are not experienced with this procedure and we didn't want to risk losing good seed. Instead we decided to stratify the fresh nuts with wet peat moss and storing them in plastic bags in the refrigerator until planting time in early May.

#### **Conclusions:**

We were disappointed that nut set was so light. We decided to do this again next year with the

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same trees, except for 'Cheryl' and its 'Gamma' partner.

They will be enclosed separately and different partners will be used.

We concluded that too much moisture developed with the trees covered in the plastic tents and that resulted in poor nut set. We decided to use Tyvek to make the tent next time. Tyvek is a material that allows moisture to pass through but will not allow liquids or pollen grains to pass. Excess moisture in the Tyvek tent would then be controlled.

Branches from the pollinizing trees will be collected and the pollen collected will be applied by brush to the female flowers of the partner trees. Each tree will receive the pollen during the receptive stage by hand pollination and by blower turbulence. In this way we can be sure that fresh pollen is used along with the partner pollen and that we can pollinize both early and later flowers.

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The Upper Midwest Hazelnut Development Initiative is a breeding, a development, and an educational program. <https://www.midwesthazelnuts.org/> Besides the EFB "elephant-in-the-room", the upper Midwest is a bit north of *C. avellana*'s comfort zone. The breeding approach was to start with a multitude of *avellana*/*Americana* hybrids. The program has about 150 cooperators in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa who have around 80,000 hybrid plants growing for evaluation. The plants are old enough for early production results, and a few promising prospects have been identified and are being clonal tested. Meanwhile agricultural and processing methods are being developed for the hybrid plants, which are smaller than their *C. avellana* ancestor.

A major breeding program was begun at Rutgers University in New Jersey in 1996. Due to the continuing quarantine, the western growing region only has one strain of the EFB fungus, while the East has several strains. OSU varieties, with the Gassaway resistance gene, are having mixed results in the East, depending on the locale and the variety. The Rutgers program began by collecting all strains of the EFB fungus to thoroughly expose new plants.

The Rutgers research farms abound with the *C. Americana* EFB host to present the highest EFB pressure. Meanwhile, *C. avellana* material has been collected from earlier American researchers, Europe, and western Asia to be exposed at the Rutgers farms. The goal is to find other resistances and to achieve higher EFB resistance (and even full immunity) by means of multiple resistance genes. The Rutgers program has planted and EFB inoculated around 80,000 plants, mostly from hand pollinated crosses between promising *C. avellana* individuals. The Rutgers variety evaluation process is meticulous and guarded. The best clonal material is out to cooperative growers for further exposure. When the Rutgers varieties are finally named and released, we can be assured of some very good cultivars for eastern growers.

<http://agproducts.rutgers.edu/hazelnuts/>

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Concerning eastern markets, the Ferrero Rocher Company, who makes Nutella and those wonderful hazelnut chocolates, has built a factory in Ontario. With Ferrero Rocher's encouragement, Ontario hazelnut growers have organized with the goal of supplying the Ferrero Rocher demand.

<http://www.ontariohazelnuts.com/>

Also, an Ontario hazelnut research program is underway at Guelph University.

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/oac/news/opportunity-grows-ontario-hazelnut-trees>

The major breeding programs, along with the Arbor Day Foundation, work together with a cooperative atmosphere. There is a lot of grower interest in the best varieties. The eastern breeding programs are unable to meet the demand for clones of their best plants. These are research sites, not commercial nurseries. Even at nurseries, traditional propagation methods are too slow to meet the demand for clonal plants. They are always "sold out". Tissue culture companies are being involved. Hopefully an adequate supply of the best cultivars will soon become available, and eastern orchardist can begin learning the peculiarities of growing hazelnuts.

## Toasted Heartnut Tuna Melt

I'm always amazed at how well the tuna melt sells, when we put it on the menu. Perhaps it's the texture of our whole wheat-cornmeal-buttermilk bread, or the nostalgia of days gone by. With the texture of heartnuts, one could serve it on any commercial bread and still have a wonderful lunch.

Mix together in a bowl:

1 - 6 oz. Can of tuna, drained

1/3 cup chopped heartnuts

1/4 cup chopped green peppers

1 stalk celery, chopped

1/4 cup mayonnaise (preferably one without sugar)

1 Tbsp. Chopped onions

1 tsp. Dijon mustard

several grinds of black pepper

Toast:

4 slices of bread

Spread with tuna salad mixture and top with 1 1/2 cups grated old white cheddar cheese.

Bake at 425°F in a convection oven for 5-7 minutes or under a broiler for 3-4 minutes or in a toaster oven on high until the cheese has melted and starts to brown.

Serve immediately with salad.

## **HAZELNUT PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS**

### **HANDLING YOUR TREES:**

Your trees are either bare rooted or recently potted. In either case the root system must be kept moist and supply the water requirement for the plant tissue. Sometimes the top needs to be trimmed back to balance the water supplying capability of a reduced root system. The root system can further be damaged by exposure to freezing, sunlight, wind, or drying air. Even brief exposure can kill roots.

### **PLANTING:**

Keep the plant roots moist while digging a hole as deep and wide as the fully extended (no trimming or bending back) root system. We use the excavated soil to build a dike to for watering. Use fine soil to plant your tree. It is better to buy some potting soil if you have nothing suitable. Potting soil is cheap compared to an expensive dead tree. Press the soil around the roots to avoid air pockets. Water slowly to allow the water to soak in, not run away.

### **PROTECTION:**

The number one risk for the first year is insufficient water. The new plants should be watered any week without an inch of rain. Sod or weeds around the plant can steal the water and nutrients. Competing grass and weeds are almost toxic. Cultivate, spray, or mulch can solve this problem. Mulch has the additional advantage of retaining water.

We have a deer problem, so we also use stakes and tree tubes. Check the trees every few days for leaf damage. Some insect attacks are very sudden and extensive. Most newly planted trees do not have the reserves to recover from full defoliation.

### **GROWING:**

Hazelnut trees require very little pruning. Hazelnuts send up root sprouts around the main stem. These suckers can be cut off or killed a couple of times a year to achieve the tree form preferred by commercial growers. The suckers can be left to grow and form a bush or multi-stemmed plant. Commercial growers also prefer a “wineglass” shape with an open center and 3 to 5 limbs branching upward from the trunk around chest height. We have had to prop up leaning trees with heavy nut crops, so we heavily prune the lower side to keep the mass of the tree balanced above the stem.

John  
Kelsey

# EAT MORE NUTS

*(Continued from page 4)*

planted. These seedlings are under care and so are performing well. Attempts are being made to grow shagbark hickory seedlings, first donated by ECSONG and then sprouted from nuts gathered at the Dominion Arboretum. White oak, swamp white oak, swamp chestnut oak, and hybrid bur oak (x live oak, x ashworth oak ) acorns from the Arboretum were put in seed trays for sprouting and some were planted in May 2019. Red and bur oak seedlings have also been planted along the creek by the Boy Scouts, the municipality, and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. Most recently, four butternuts were provided free to ECSONG from a provincial program to introduce canker tolerant specimens.

An inventory of the currently surviving nut trees and their year of planting at Nepean Creek are show below.

40 black walnut 2004-2009  
 10 red oak 2004  
 5 bur oak 2004  
 15 English oak 2010  
 10 Bebb;s oak 2011  
 5 Porter shagbark hickory seedlings - 2018  
 4 white oak 2019  
 4 swamp white oak 2019  
 2 swamp chestnut oak 2019  
 4 (tolerant) butternut 2019

## **I Need Your Nuts and Syrups**

I gather, process, package, and market indigenous foods- everything from B.C. Red Huckleberries to Cloudberries from Labrador. Primarily I sell to restaurants and stores, however I am now selling some products over the internet through my website [www.wildfoods.ca](http://www.wildfoods.ca)

Recently I have been able to find and market birch syrup, and despite it's price it has been selling. I now want to expand my range of products to include the various products that can be made from nut trees.

I would like to hear from any SONG members that can supply me with shelled nuts, nut oils, or nut tree syrups. In shelled nuts, I am particularly interested in beechnuts, butternuts, and hickory nuts but I am open to suggestions provided that the products are natural and unpolluted. I am also very interested in buying tree syrups from black walnut, butternut, and hickory trees.

At this point, I am interested even in small quantities so that I can test the market for future sales. If you think you can provide me with anything, call me toll-free at **1-877-354-WILD**

Thank You,

Jonathan Forbes

## Classifieds

### **GRIMO NUT NURSERY LTD**

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 during the growing season.

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 rare hybrids. Fruit trees offered include pawpaw, persimmon, mulberry, fig and quince. We also sell harvesting equipment, tree shelters, nut crackers & Ontario nuts & 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**  
**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 / 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, 722 6th Concession Rd, Walsingham, ON N0E 1X0**. Your cancelled cheque is your receipt. **Dues can also be paid by e-transfer to: song.treasurer@yahoo.com**.

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: ☐ New membership: ☐ Payment enclosed for: 3 Years \$45.00 ☐ One year \$17.00 ☐

Please send my free copy of *Nut Tree Ontario, A Practical Guide* with my **new membership** ☐

I would like to purchase my post-paid copy of *Nut Tree Ontario, A Practical Guide*. I enclose \$26.00 (\$29 US) ☐