## **ISSUE 122**

**April** 2022

# SONG NEWS

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

## WWW.SONGONLINE.CA

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#### **ECSONG Executive**

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Jim Ronson - Perth Wildlife Reserve

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Roman Popadiouk - Sawmill Creek

- 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. For special quantity price, contact: Gordon Chinnick, Treasurer, 722 6th Concession

#### **Inside This Issue Page**

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**Library Corner** - Gordon Wilkinson This part of the page is now 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 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!

SONG Website: www.songonline.ca

Rd, Walsingham, ON NOE 1X0

Be sure to check it for updates on meetings, read about nut farming, post your

nuts or nut products to sell online.

Ernie Grimo, President, Send your free posting to:

979 Lakeshore Rd, RR3, Niagara/Lake, ON LOS 1JO

or: nut.trees@grimonut.com

Wondering when your membership expires?

On your mailing label, "(exp: 20xx)" means your membership expires end of year 20xx.

#### Acting President's Message - Ernie Grimo

The Covid 19 pandemic has been with us for over two years now and with high numbers of Canadians double vaxxed, the likelihood of serious lockdowns is over. Life appears to be returning to normal and by May 8, covid should be reduced to affect us little more than our annual flu provided everyone is fully vaccinated. It is still important to get the third shot to provide the best protection. A friend in Wisconsin just lost her 62-year-old husband from covid and he was just double vaccinated.

Since we canceled our SONG 2020, 2021 and 2022 March Annual meetings, I have, with the executive support, declared that our May 8 Auction meeting will have our election of officers take place at one o'clock, along with a short business meeting, just prior to the beginning of the auction. If you wish to add nominees, please let Bruce Thurston know. He is responsible as Past President to conduct the election of officers. SONG's current officers who do not let Bruce know otherwise are automatically considered as candidates for re-election. It is expected that executive members will actively attend at least one of our meetings to be considered as upstanding executive members.

It has been my pleasure to be on the executive of SONG over the years since its inception in 1972. I have declined to run as President at this time. I will continue as Past President, an automatically held position. I trust that SONG/ECSONG will continue as well as it has done in the past.

#### **COMING EVENTS**

SONG 2022 SPRING ELECTION & AUCTION MEETING: May 8, 2022 See details on Page 3

**NORTHERN NUT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING**: NNGA's 111th Annual Meeting 2022 August 7-10 Penn State Berks Campus, Reading, PA https://nutgrowing.org/annual-conference-2022/

**SONG 2018 FALL MEETING:** DATE: A Saturday in September tentatively

FEATURING: To be determined. We welcome suggestions for locations or venues.

#### **RECIPE**

#### **Chocolate and Hazelnut Biscotti**

From BBC Good Foods

- 2 medium eggs
- 100g caster sugar
- 250g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- zest 1 orange
- 25g toasted hazelnuts, roughly chopped
- 25g chocolate chips
- 1. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4 and line a large baking sheet with baking paper. Whisk together the eggs and sugar until light and fluffy. Sift the flour and bicarbonate of soda into a bowl, and then add the orange zest, hazelnuts and chocolate chips. Fold into the egg mix to make soft dough. Tip onto a lightly floured surface, shape into a 25cm sausage shape with lightly floured hands, and then transfer to baking sheet. Flatten to a 3cm thickness, and then bake for 30 mins. until lightly browned on top.
- 2. Remove and slide onto a chopping board, then reduce the oven to 160C/140C fan/gas 3. Cut the log into 1cm thick slices and return to the baking sheet, cut-sides up. Bake for 10-15 mins until crisp, and then cool on a wire rack. These will keep in a tin for 3 weeks.

#### **SONG 2022 SPRING ELECTION & AUCTION MEETING**

**DATE**: May 8, 2022 **TIME**: 12:30 - 4:00 p.m. Members and visitors are always welcome. No Fee. Come early socialize, browse the auction items and register for the auction.

**ELECTION:** We will hold our election of officers promptly at 1:00 pm. Officers, nominees and members should be present for this important event. The auction will proceed following the election of officers.

<u>AUCTION FEATURES:</u> Nut trees galore and more. Trees being auctioned may include hazelnut, hardy Persian walnut, black walnut, butternut, ultra-northern pecan, hickory, heartnut, sweet chestnut, pine nut, ginkgo, and hybrids including hicans and heartnut/butternut hybrids to name a few. As a change of pace, an assortment of unusual fruits and ornamentals may be auctioned.

### Each year brings different items and always surprises.

Pay by: Cash/cheque to "SONG"/e-transfer to song.treasurer@yahoo.com (no credit/no debit)

Members are encouraged to bring things to auction off. This is a fund raiser for the SONG/ECSONG treasury. (SONG receives 30% of the proceeds/the member keeps 70%.) If you plan to bring more than ten items then please email your planned list to <a href="mailto:song.treasurer@yahoo.com">song.treasurer@yahoo.com</a> by May 1st. This will assist in planning. Bring your items and your final list early (before 12:30) so we can organize the overall sale list.

**LOCATION:** King Heritage and Cultural Centre, 2920 King Rd, King City, ON L7B 1L6 (Note that this is the same location as we used in 2019.)

<u>DIRECTIONS</u>: Take Hwy 401 or Hwy 407 (toll road) to Highway 400 N. Exit King Rd E. Pass Jane St., King Heritage & Cultural Centre is on the left. 2920 King Rd has a cluster of buildings. Meet in Laskay Hall. https://www.google.com/maps/place/King+Heritage+and+Cultural+Centre/@43.9241212,-79.5

#### Financial Report from Treasurer - Gordon Chinnick Society of Ontario Nut Growers - Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - for the year ended 2021-Dec-31 (unaudited) Out Expenditures Out Revenue In Net In Net Membership 1,859.59 1,859.59 Printing 209.24 209.24 -\_ 218.69 218.69 Books 80.00 80.00 Postage Web hosting Auction 46.83 Meetings + Outreach Interest 46.83 Service Charge 10.00 10.00 Insurance 1,135.52 605.84 529.68 \*Note1 1,573.45 **Total Revenue** 967.61 1,986.42 1,986.42 Total Expenditures 605.84 Excess (Deficit) of Revenues Over Expenditures 1,018.81 Assets/Liabilities Opening Closing eSavings 12,144.31 13,591.05 Clubs + Org #1 1,095.66 1,095.66 Note1: Insurance refund of overpayment prior year & covid refund Cash 385.85 385.85 Note2: Accts Payable paid off in 2022 March Accts Payable 1,316.61 - 1,744.54 \*Note2 **Net Position** 12,309.21 13,328.02 1,018.81

#### Considerations for pruning hazelnuts (and other trees) By Martin Hodgson

<u>Timing</u>-When is the best time in the year to prune trees? Certainly, the best time to prune is when the tree is resting or in-active in the colder months to reduce sap loss. As such running should be avoided in the spring where ever possible. Pruning can be done in the summer and early fall if necessary.

<u>Goal</u>-The goal of pruning your trees is to enhance growth and nut production from the trees and to improve its structure and shape. You want to allow for optimum access around the tree of maintenance and harvest operations and machinery. You also want to eliminate those branches that rub on others which can allow diseases in through damaged bark and to ensure the center of the tree is open to sun light.

<u>Tools</u> -The tools used to prune hazelnut trees are nothing different than what are used elsewhere to manage orchards.

On the smaller scale there are the manually operated hand pruners and the larger loppers, some of which are adjustable in length for more leverage. There is some discussion as to which style is better - by pass or anvil. I feel the by-pass style gives a cleaner cut. You can get pneumatic or hydraulic actuated hand pruners as well. They are much more expensive and may not be best for smaller operations. They do have a place with professional operators. Keep the tools sharp. There are inexpensive hand sharpeners available for field tune ups.

The next step up is battery powered saws-alls/sabre saws and chain saws. The saws-alls, with long aggressive blades, will handle most of your pruning requirements up to and past 50-100 mm dia. branches. They work well on the annual sprouts and those branches that keep getting in the way of the mower. There are a wide range of electric (and gas) powered chainsaws that will make the removal of larger diameter branches much quicker.

Another tool that needs mention are hedge trimmers for those who need to remove errant branches and those pesky annual shoots. I have found that battery operated hedge trimmers do well for branches in and around the trees up to ¾" dia. (that fit in between the trimmer guides). They are also very good at removing first and even most second year shoots from around the base of the tree. They are fast and can help open up parts of the tree for easier access with other tools. Invariably though they can quickly leave you with a large pile of material to deal with.

Some manufactures of weed whipper (Stihl etc.) have a system that allow for the attachment of cutting tools to their power heads. There are pole chainsaws, hedge trimmers and circular saw blades for the weed whipper head. All these tool speed up the pruning operation considerably but you will need to use their larger power heads to run them efficiently.

Finally - in the larger orchard operations there are actual mowers that have vertically mounted shafts incorporating either sickle type cutters or rotary sets of blades that are used to cut a swath down the orchard removing a line of all branches encountered in its path. They tend to use these in very mature orchard. They go in one direction one year and change each year 90 degrees in a four-year rotation.

#### Where to make the cut

When cutting branches of hardwood trees, the **final** cut should be made as close to the main branch as possible without removing the slightly raised base connection of the branch. This helps ensure more rapid healing. Do not cut into the main stem. When removing larger branches do an initial cut a short distance out (300 mm) on the branch to help avoid the formation of splintered wood surface in the final cut surface. Once the heavy load of the branch is removed a more precise, clean and planar final cut can be easily made. Always ensure the final cut is inclined as steeply as possible to avoid collecting water on the surface which promotes rot. For these large heavy branches, always make the first cut on the underside of the branch upwards 1/3 of the way then cut down from the top to prevent jamming the cutting blade to reduce debris load at harvest time.

Continued from page 4

Remember, if you are up on a ladder against the tree when cutting a branch off, most likely the branch you cut will pivot down and knock the ladder away from the tree and you with it. Safety first. Go to YouTube and watch "Idiots with chainsaws" for some entertaining and informative examples.

#### Treatment of the cuttings -

Handling the cut branches - Once all the branches are down, they must be removed from the orchard. There are several ways which will depend on manpower and machines available. Some orchards use heavy flails to chop up all but the largest branches. It will take a number of passes and then still may require a sweeper to collect up all the remaining debris which must be removed to reduce debris load at harvest time.

Another method is to pile the branches into accumulations that can be pushed out of the orchard with large front mounted grappling buckets. Care must be taken to ensure that all piles are less than 1/2 the width of the row widths so that cut branches do not hit the base of the trees during removal, which will damage the bark. This sort of an operation must be coordinated with the pruning so that the removal keeps up with the buildup of cuttings. This method can become tedious for orchards with long alleyways. A combination of pushing the prunings to a tub grinder within the orchard has been used to reduce the long-distance travels of pushing branches.

Brush chippers can be used to reduce the cut branches into chips that are blown into trucks for removal. It is best to use the largest machine available in these sorts of operations to speed up the process. Small units will take a great deal of time and preparation (cut down) of the branches to fit into the chopper. Do not entertain using smaller units especially if they do not have a self-feed.

#### **Handling EFB infected wood-**

All wood with EFB must be removed from the orchard and burned. It is best to do the removal before the EFB is active (fall and winter). Chipping can disperse the spores into the air and cause re-infection. It is best to carry the infected branches out of the orchard to the burn pile. When pruning the infected branches, it is always best to cut at least 1 m below the last evidence of EFB seen on the branch. Inspect every cut and look for darkened/ brown sections of the bark which is evidence of the presence of EFB. If you see anything move down another 600 to 900 mm and take another section off. Repeat until good clean wood is seen. In trees with a lot of EFB cut off at ground level and remove all wood. Watch this tree in the future. Some may recover but note that it is susceptible to EFB and plan on its removal, if possible, eventually.

#### Treatment of the cuts -

Many want to put all sorts of stuff onto the cut ends to "protect" the wood but evidence has shown that the cut face is best left alone and the tree will care for itself.

#### Chemical pruning -

Herbicides can be used to "prune" the young hazelnut shoots that come up from the roots of most varieties. These herbicides must be applied in a timely manner when the shoots are still young and very green, typically less than 300 mm or so in height. At this stage of growth, the shoots will wither away most likely and not need to be removed mechanically. If you wait too long and spray higher shoots, they most likely will be killed off but they will not likely wither away in the season.

Always follow the label of the herbicides you want to apply with regards to number of applications per season, re-entry time, pre-harvest setbacks and any other pertinent information that applies to your use of the product.

#### **ECSONG Winter Meeting on ZOOM - January 22nd, 2022**

ECSONG held its annual Winter Meeting and AGM on Saturday, January 22, 2022. Once again, the meeting had to take place on ZOOM due to the continuation of the Covid pandemic. As many as 20 people attended the meeting according to the ZOOM participation counter.

Attendees enjoyed three fabulous presentations. Our first speaker, Ryan Grabe, is one of our youngest ECSONG members and is a horticulture and anthropology student at Oregon State University. He gave an excellent talk on the importance of fungi, mycorrhizae, and other aspects of soil ecology on the growth of trees. He provided very useful tips on how to introduce the right kind of mycorrhizae to improve the growth of newly planted or established young nut trees.

Gordon Chinnick, our SONG Treasurer, is also involved with the Canadian Chestnut Council (CCC). His presentation provided a wealth of information on the research and breeding efforts of the CCC to prevent the demise of the American Chestnut tree from Canada.

Owen Clarkin, who is an ECSONG member with an academic background in chemistry, gave a lively and comprehensive review of the nut bearing trees and shrubs that grow at the Ottawa Arboretum and in the wild in Eastern Ontario and described their defining characteristics.

During the AGM portion of the meeting the following ECSONG members were unanimously voted to return to the ECSONG Board - Gordon Wilkinson as Chair, Bill Watts as Vice-Chair, Dan Mayo as Secretary/Treasurer and Ted McDonald as a Director-at-large. Owen Clarkin was unanimously voted to be a new Board member. John Sankey remains on the Board as the Immediate Past Chair.

#### **Squirrel Infestation**

The Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and they should not interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist church, the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water-slide on the baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and, unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Lutheran church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later, the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water-slide.

The Episcopalians tried a much more unique path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the squirrels with alcohol poisoning. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunken squirrels can do.

But the Catholic Church came up with a more creative strategy! They baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue. They took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.

#### Interesting field tools by Martin Hodgson

I have come across some interesting tools that could be incorporated into orchard management practices. The goal is to reduce manpower requirements where ever possible

<u>Brush management from pruning operations</u> - After pruning there are a lot of trimmings that need to be removed from the orchard. Some gather them up and push them down the rows to the edges of the orchards which can be a problem if you have long rows. Damage can also occur to the base of the trees by brush rubbings.

Brush chippers can reduce the cuttings and deliver them into a dump wagon for removal but this takes a lot of work.

<u>Orchard mulchers</u> - on YouTube/Google. I have seen tractor mounted mulchers reduce piles of olive tree trimmings up to 5-6" in diameter to fine chips which can be incorporated into the ground or swept up for removal. This is an incredible reduction of manpower requirements and time saver. They can go on standard 3-point-hitch tractors or other powered machines like Bob cats.

**Seppi orchard mulchers** - as one brand name then chase the rabbit hole down to others.

<u>Harvest sweeper/pickup</u> - During the early stages of the development of the hazelnut orchard the 1-3 lb of nuts per tree that fall need to be collected. Most growers at this stage do not have a mechanized harvesting system. We rely on hand collection, nut rollers, nets, etc. to gather the harvest all slow and tedious. Who gets to do this? The kids have only so much ambition.

There are several small (golf cart sized) gas or battery powered street sweeper systems out there that can either just sweep up the nuts into 200 L+ bins or actually have the ability to vacuum them up. The suction capabilities appear quite robust being able to pull in 1 L pop bottles. That being said indicates that the impellers are shielded in some way so the nuts will not be mashed up. The 200L + volume means good long runs between dumps. The 8 hr run time on battery is good too.

Luckily there is a distributor of the <u>TSM Italia 135</u> systems in Brantford who may be interested in demonstrating their system at one of our get togethers. These units are not cheap at \$25,000 but could be part of an orchard management's equipment set. Or maybe rented out from the supplier? Check this and other similar machines out on You Tube.

Boney ground reducer - For those who have stony or gravely ground there are tough derivations of flails/ road header mining machines out there that will take literally all your stones down to about 8" depths and pulverize them into fine bits. This will eliminate all the stones that can be picked up by the harvesters. Check out titles like, <u>Tractor mounted Rock Crushers</u> on You tube. **Seppi, Valentini** have them along with a variety of other manufacturers

#### 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

Recently I have been able to find and market birch syrup, and despite its 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** 

#### **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 is 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 \$2 or two current Canadian letter stamps, free for SONG members.

Our on-line inventory is updated as items are sold.

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 LOS 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 are 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, ON LOS1V0

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, <i>Nut Tree Ontario, A Practical Guide</i> , a \$20 value, free, when you take out a new three-year, \$45 membership. Simply ask for your free copy when joining SONG. For added information, view the ECSONG handbook at: <a href="http://www.songonline.ca/ecsong/">http://www.songonline.ca/ecsong/</a> . Fill out the tear off below and send to: SONG/ECSONG, Gordon Chinnick, Treasurer, 722 6th Concession Rd, Walsingham, ON NOE 1XO. Your cancelled cheque is your receipt. Dues can also be paid by e-transfer to: song.treasurer@yahoo.com		
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Address:		□ One year \$17.00
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