



Notes from the vineyard

Amanda Conkol

By now you probably have seen the Girl Scout Cookie booths at your favorite grocery stores, banks, malls and Wal-Marts so if you didn't pre-order your cookies, make sure you pick them up while you are out running errands.

As the proud sponsor of Girl Scout Troop 402 in Garrettsville, the winery has been converted into Girl Scout cookie headquarters for our troop to get their cookies to you. While the Girl Scouts did an amazing job of selling cookies, a few curious parents have asked what wine pairs well with the rest of the Girl Scout cookies after last week's article? There are so many options with 8 great cookies this year, so here are the pairings for the remaining cookies.

Let's start with my favorite Girl Scout Cookie – the Samoa. This delectable caramel, coconut and chocolate-covered cookie has so many flavors that pairing it with a particular wine is tough. However I had a bottle of Tawny Port and sampled it with the cookie. It was so unexpected. The nutty flavors of the Port really brought out the caramel and coconut of the cookie without losing the cookie flavor.

Next is the Trefoil cookie. This shortbread cookie could be paired with almost any wine since it is so light. However I found that an oaked chardonnay paired quite well with this cookie. The buttery overtones

in the chardonnay matched quite well with the buttery taste of the Trefoil.

The newest cookie was introduced last year and is still a big hit this year. The Thank U Berry Much has mix of cranberry and white fudge chips. My initial thought was to pair this with our Cranberry wine but I found that I liked the cookie much better with our Iced Wine which is a much sweeter and almost syrupy wine. The combination of the cranberries and white fudge chips made the wine perfect for dessert.

Finally for this week I paired the Lemon Chalet Cookies with our Chambourcin. This lemon crème sandwich cookie can be difficult to pair since lemon is such an overpowering flavor. But the smooth finish of the Chambourcin reduced the bite from the lemon flavor and made this a great pair.

If you need some cookies to do your own pairing, either stop by the winery and one of our resident girl scouts can help you or be sure to sponsor the local Girl Scout cookie booths!

Amanda is the Co-Owner of Candlelight Winery located at 11325 Center Street, Garrettsville. For more gift ideas or wine lists from the winery, please visit www.candlelightwinery.com.

Ask The Librarian

CAROL BAKER

This reference question came up several years ago when a local teacher used to send her students on a leprechaun hunt, but is still timely. "How do you catch a leprechaun?" The question had the Newton Falls Public Library staff thinking about how handy it would be to have a pot of gold.

Carol Rose's book, page 196 of *Spirits, fairies, gnomes, goblins: an encyclopedia of the little people*, describes leprechauns as fairy shoemakers who like to play pranks on humans and have a reputation for guarding crocks of gold. In the book, *Leprechauns and Irish Folklore* by Mary Pope Osborne, they are described as the bankers and richest of the fairy folk, originally hiding their gold from the Vikings. It is an Irish legend that they hide pots of gold at the end of rainbows, keeping very busy always moving it around. If a leprechaun is captured, he will supposedly promise to give you his gold for setting him free. Once coins are given and he is free, the silver returns magically to his purse and the gold turns to ash. People will try to trap them in boxes in gardens. Beware that you don't nab the wrong one; they have similar appearing cousins named clurichauns who move into homes, drink all the wine, and refuse to leave.

An online search revealed numerous suggestions for catching the tricky wee folk. Traps are baited with money, shoes to be repaired, or poteen, an Irish alcohol usually made from potatoes. Some suggest using nets to catch the leprechaun. Others fear that the expansion of cities is causing them to go underground, reducing the likelihood of seeing one. While many legends and tales speak of the unfortunate consequences that often resulted from capturing a leprechaun in the past, none of the sites tell of any recent, successful catches.

If you wish to make a trap of your own or to get the answers to your questions, visit the Newton Falls Public Library, 204 S. Canal Street, Newton Falls or phone 330-872-1282. For information about library programs or hours, also visit our website at www.newtonfalls.org.



Puppy Tails

Mialie T. Szymanski

As the moon goes to bed, the sun comes up

And here we meet a sleepy pup,

Who was walking through G-ville one bright sunny day,

Then saw The Villager and decided to stay.

Bright sunlight coming in through the office window awoke Doodle Dog from his usual snoring. It had been so rainy and cold with white snow all over the ground that this warm, cheery visitor was quite a surprise! As he rolled over and blinked the sleep from his eyes, a colorful patch on the rug caught his attention. The sun mixed with the crystal effect of the glass windowpane was making little multihued spots by Doodle Dog's front paws. No, not quite... as Doodle Dog looked closer he realised it wasn't the reflection that was causing the design – all the colors were actually coming from outside! The floppy-eared puppy hurried to peer out the window and there, splashed across the clear blue sky, was a brilliant rainbow stretching over one end of the town to the other. He put his paws up on the windowsill for a closer look, but it really didn't do much good – the rainbow was much too big! Doodle Dog would have to go outside to see it all.

When he made his way out of the office door and down the steps, Doodle Dog turned the corner to the sidewalk. Just as he stepped onto the concrete, a flash of green dashed around the building several yards in front of him. He couldn't be sure, but Doodle Dog thought he glimpsed what looked like a little man in an emerald coat who immediately disappeared as quickly as he had been seen!

Doodle Dog forgot about the rainbow as he scampered after the little man, curious and determined to find out just who, or what, he had seen. There! The little man was darting between a bush and a tree stump now and it appeared he was carrying a giant bowl of some kind. The bowl was so big that the little man could not use the handle – he had his tiny arms wrapped tightly with all his might around the outside of the shiny container. From the way the little man was hunched, Doodle Dog could tell the bowl was heavy – what could it possibly have inside? – but for as overloaded as the bowl seemed, the little man sure was moving fast under its weight!

The little man in green and his funny-looking bowl disappeared again into the brush and thistles.

Doodle Dog followed the trail, sniffing the ground as he wandered through the woods. A carpet of tiny clovers grew as he walked. Hmm... Doodle Dog didn't remember those being there! Pretty soon Doodle Dog found himself no closer to discovering the little man's hiding place, but he did discover something else: Doodle Dog found himself now quite lost. The woods were getting darker as he continued farther into the thicker trees and the little dog certainly did not want to stay lost. He searched around for the trail leading home but now all paths looked the same. Which way should he go? A cloud of what looked like overgrown fireflies appeared from behind an especially large tree covered in ivy. There were so many of them that they easily lit up one of the paths closest to Doodle Dog. He decided to be brave and try that road. Maybe it would lead him home or maybe he would find the little man and his giant pot after all!

The fireflies led Doodle Dog, lighting his way, and he soon found a clearing he had not seen before. Above the clearing there were no tree branches blocking the light from the blue sky, and Doodle Dog looked up to find the enormous rainbow still overhead. Now he remembered what he was after today! Doodle Dog had once read about how sailors used a bright star in the sky to show them the way home. He wondered if the rainbow could help him find his way too. He looked and looked for where the rainbow ended and sure enough before he knew it he found the entrance to the forest and then the sidewalk which would lead into town and right to the office door.

Chasing rainbows and fireflies and little men in green was a lot for a little puppy to do in one day! He'd heard once upon a time that there was treasure at the end of a rainbow and though he hadn't found gold and jewels he was pretty sure what he'd found was even better. The sleepy puppy definitely needed a nap and his nice warm bed made him feel like the luckiest dog in the world!

Give your dog something to look forward to today!

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