

Heuser History

Hilltop Orchards was founded in 1910 by Wally's grandfather, J. H. Heuser. He purchased 47 acres near Hartford, Michigan, which he soon expanded. He began budding his own trees and the nursery business was born.

Eugene Heuser (Wally's father) took over management of the Orchard in 1923 and devoted more time to growing nursery stock.

Wally returned to the farm after graduating from Michigan State University in 1950, with a degree in Horticulture. He began importing rootstock from Holland to start their own production of Dwarf Apple Trees. From their small beginning, Hilltop grew to be an Internationally recognized Nursery. Wally operates Summit Tree Sales with his daughter, Wanda. His late wife, Laura, was a dynamic speaker for agriculture. She will be missed by many.

The Heusers' have received many awards. Laura received the Founder Award, Leaven Award, Outstanding Alumnus Award from MSU, and was named Michigania of the Year in 1979 by the Detroit News.

Wally was the founder and first President of the Dwarf Fruit Tree Association, President of Michigan Peach Sponsors, National Peach Council, Director of American Pomological Society and President of the Michigan State Horticultural Society in 1979. He also has received the Distinguished Service Award from the Hort Society. He and Laura jointly received the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award from MSU in 1982, the first couple to be so recognized.

About the TRUST FUND

The Michigan State Horticultural Society (MSHS) established a perpetual Trust Fund in 1984.

The purpose of the Trust is to support science and education in horticulture. The Trust promotes excellence in public and private horticultural research, education and extension by supporting:

- Horticultural research at Michigan State University (MSU) and similar agricultural research institutions. Research should have primary significance for the Michigan fruit industry.
- Horticultural extension programs to strengthen and/or expand educational assistance to the Michigan fruit industry.
- Horticultural educational programs at MSU and by the Society to further disseminate scientific information and techniques to horticultural students and the general public.
- Public information materials and programs to further educate MSHS members and the public at large.
- Educational scholarships in the horticultural field of study.
- Distinguished lecturers and speakers at MSHS annual meetings.

For additional information on Projects Funded go to www.mihortsociety.org



MSHS

TRUST FUND



Leaving a Legacy Capital Fund Drive

Honorary Chairman,
Wally Heuser

Leaving a Legacy \$500,000 Goal MSHS Trust Fund Drive

Michigan State Horticultural Society continues a major campaign to build the equity in its Trust Fund. Wally Heuser has agreed to stay on as Chairman even after the passing of his wife, Laura in 2009. The Trust received \$2,300 in memorial gifts in honor of Laura. One of the purposes of the Trust has been to fund research for the Horticultural Industry. Over the past twenty-five years one million dollars has been used to initiate research ranging from growth regulators to storage issues as well as researching market opportunities.

Wally has said, "The Horticultural Industry cannot afford to rest on its laurels. It must lead the way in seeking answers regarding horticultural needs related to growing, storing, processing and marketing. A key tool to initiate sound research is to have industry funds available to entice researchers to solve critical problems. **The Michigan State Horticultural Society Trust Fund has been and will continue to be the critical tool to assist the Industry.**"

*The Trust is a 501 (c) (3)
tax deductible contribution and
licensed by the State of Michigan*



What are some special ways to give?

Pledges

The Trust will be accepting pledges for up to three years.

Year-End Gifts

The best way to give a charitable gift is through careful planning; the gift you give before December 31st may qualify for important benefits during this taxable year.

Estate Planning/A Gift of Bequest

Donations from an individual, trust or estate can include gifts of land, land contracts, unencumbered property, personal property, life insurance, or income. You may leave a gift of bequest in your will for the benefit of the Society's Trust.

Memorial Gifts

The Trust accepts one-time or annual giving programs to commemorate an individual.

Designated Gifts

Substantial one-time donations can be applied to designated programs, projects, or equipment.

Corporate Gifts

MSHS urges corporations and organizations, particularly those engaged in activities related to the fruit industry, to contribute to the Trust.

**For more information, contact the MSHS Office at
269-424-
3990**



MSHS TRUST FUND Contributions Form

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____

- Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ to the MSHS Trust Fund
- My total pledge to the Trust is \$ _____ payable over a period of _____ year (s).
- Please send more information on how I can contribute a part of my estate to the Trust.

Make remittance payable to the MSHS Trust and mail your contribution to:

Michigan State Horticultural Society
63806 90th Avenue
Hartford, MI 49057