



# NW MICHIGAN HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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## Message from the NWMHRF Board President

Dear NWMHRS Supporters:

In the late 70's, a local group of industry leaders saw the need for a research facility in northwest Michigan, and the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station was born. It has continued to be a state-of-the-art facility for fruit research and outreach programming.

Since the beginning, a unique partnership evolved with the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation (NWMHRF) and Michigan State University. MSU supports operations and staffing of the station, but because we are a grower-owned facility, the NWMHR Foundation is responsible for capital improvements. In the past, MDA budgeted support for these needs, but in recent years, state financial support has dwindled to an end.

In Michigan's current economic climate, there are also proposed additional cuts to "higher education," and these decreases have the potential to impact the NWMHRS. Supporting higher education (which includes the NWMHRS) may not be articulated as an 'immediate need' for many, mostly as a result of how the station goes about its business: quietly, efficiently, and without pretense--

fulfilling the needs of the grower community. If we are guilty of anything in this process of budgetary crisis, it may be that the NWMHRS continues to get the job done despite cuts to resources or personnel. However, I am concerned about the ability to maintain this level of commitment as funding continues to decline.

Thankfully grower community groups like CMI, Michigan Cherry Committee, Michigan Apple Committee, and Parallel 45 have been tremendous in helping support specific needs at the NWMHRS. And certainly, let's not forget the growers and processors from our five-county area who have stepped up to the plate and are donating to our "Keep our Farmers Farming" campaign launched in 2006. We only see the need for local support growing in the coming years as state and federal funding cuts impact the NWMHRS.

Other good news is that specialty crops are finally being recognized; consumers are being educated about the health benefits of fruits and vegetables. This specialty crop title is also going to play an important role in the new Farm Bill, particularly as Senator Debbie Stabenow steps into the leadership role of the Senate Com-



*Rick Sayler, NWMHRF Board President*

mittee on Agriculture (see story on pg. 2). We also can't forget the value of buying local.

Pick up a Saturday edition of the Traverse City Record Eagle. On the front page of the Business Section, agricultural articles are featured weekly through a collaborative effort between the paper and the NWMHRS staff and Foundation Board.

You can see that we have a lot to be thankful for, and your continued support is vital for our success. Together we can keep 'our station' the benchmark that others aspire to attain.

Thank you,

Rick Sayler  
NWMHRF President



## Senator Stabenow Meets With New FARM Program Members at NWMHRS

The Northwest New FARM (Farmer Assistance and Resource Management) group had the pleasure of meeting with Senator Debbie Stabenow in late January at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station. This meeting was of particular importance to this group, as well as to all Michigan farmers, as the Senator now serves as the Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture. With this new position, the Senator will play a pivotal role in drafting language that will be adopted in the upcoming Farm Bill, legislation that impacts all U.S. growers.

In the previous Farm Bill, Senator Stabenow helped write the title of 'specialty crops' into the legislation. This landmark decision impacted Michigan as our state has the second highest diversity of agricultural crops in the country, only behind California. Specialty crops are considered any agricultural crop that is not corn, wheat, soybeans, or cotton. In



*New FARM Program members and Senator Debbie Stabenow*

short, specialty crops are the foods we eat every day: carrots, apples, cherries, potatoes, asparagus and a long list of others.

With this next Farm Bill go-round, we are hoping that we can build on the specialty crop foundation set in 2008 and expand some of the programs, research efforts, and language that support our northern Michigan specialty crop growers. For instance, the State Block Grants for the Specialty Crop Program was written in to the previous bill and was intended to enhance the competitiveness of Michigan specialty

crops. These grants have supported state programs that encouraged consumption of more fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops. Additionally, the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) partnered with MSU Extension on a proposal to provide educational programming on food safety practices to cherry, apple, peach, and asparagus growers. These grant dollars have supported two years of training growers and farm workers to better understand and execute food safety practices on their farms.

Programs such as Block Grants have been advantageous for growers, and the New FARM members provided the Senator with many other examples of what has worked and has not worked in the previous bill. Senator Stabenow was definitely all 'ears' to hear the challenges of a diverse group of emerging farmers in northwest Michigan. The group was happy to be asked to meet with the Senator, and all of them look forward to helping draft supportive language for our NW industries in the next Farm Bill.

## Remember Last Spring?

You just cannot predict the weather in Michigan! Did you know that we were at 50% sweet cherry bloom at the NWMHRS on April 19th in 2010? On April 19th of this year, we have barely reached side green in sweets. The hope is that this slow and steady move into spring

will produce a great crop. But the April 20th snow storm, we could have done without! Here's to wishing everyone a healthy and profitable 2011.



*April 19, 2010*



*April 19, 2011*

## Special Thanks To All Our Donors!

We would like to take the time to recognize all of the supporters of the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation. Your contributions impact the northwest Michigan fruit industry by providing area growers with cutting edge research, quality educational sessions, and access to worldwide fruit information. We greatly appreciate your continued support! *Please note that names in italics have donated to NWMHRF for multiple years.*

\$99 and under		\$100 - \$499	
Allington, Leroy	Merillat, Joe	Adams, Robert	<i>Kozelko, Steve</i>
<i>Alpers Tree Sales, Jean Alpers</i>	Nagy, Calvin	<i>Alpers, David</i>	<i>LaCross, Glenn</i>
Altonen, Brian	<i>Nielsen, Norman</i>	Amos, John	Lathwell, Gary and Larry
<i>Bardenhagen, James</i>	Odom, Susan	<i>Bahle's of Suttons Bay, Richard Bahle</i>	<i>Laubach, Jim</i>
Bargy, Larry	<i>Oles, Robert</i>	<i>Bardenhagen, Gary</i>	Lautner Irrigation, Dan Lautner
Beuerle, James	Rhoads, Ronald	<i>Bardenhagen, Steve</i>	Ligon, Leonard
<i>Brothers, Carl</i>	Rockershousen, John	<i>Beale, Abby</i>	<i>Marsh, William</i>
Brown, Richard	Runge, Dora	<i>Boals, Ronald</i>	<i>McManus, Micheal</i>
Brys, Walter	<i>Scheuerman, Thomas</i>	<i>Brown, Merle</i>	<i>Mick, Ron</i>
<i>Casier, Jr., William</i>	Scott, Paul	<i>Brys, Walter</i>	<i>Nugent, Donald</i>
<i>Collins, Jr., Ron</i>	Skeba, Allen	<i>Bull, John</i>	<i>Nugent, Jim</i>
<i>Coppa, Marie</i>	<i>Smith, Conway</i>	<i>Dean, James</i>	<i>Ochs, Arnold</i>
<i>Coulter, Lew</i>	<i>Stanek, Jerry</i>	<i>Dietrich, Jim and Mike</i>	<i>Paradis, Glenn</i>
Croft LLC, Marty Lagina	Telford Farm LLC	<i>Engle, Ken</i>	Paradis, Micheal
<i>Deering, Mark</i>	<i>Todd, John</i>	Esch, Larry	<i>Parker, Wesley</i>
<i>Dobson, Rex</i>	<i>Urka, John</i>	<i>Evans, Mark and Mike</i>	<i>Putney, Loy</i>
<i>Doherty, Mark</i>	<i>Walton, Bruce</i>	Flaska, Joseph	<i>Richter, Jonathan</i>
<i>Dow, Dr. Roberta</i>	<i>Warren, Gary</i>	Gallagher, Jr., John	Richter, Mike
Fitzgerald, Pat	Werner, John	Gowan Company, Rick Cater	<i>Riley, Joseph</i>
<i>Flaska, Joseph</i>	<i>Whittaker, Stuart</i>	Great Lakes Packing Co., Norm Veliquette	<i>Rink, Bernard</i>
<i>Franco, Manuel</i>	Wick, Gordon	<i>Gregory, Ed</i>	<i>Sayler, Richard</i>
Goudschaal, Claudia		Henry, Richard	<i>Schlueter, John H.</i>
<i>Grossnickle, Steven</i>		Hoffman, Bill	<i>Scott, John</i>
<i>Halik, Greg</i>		Hohnke, Ben	<i>Send, Jeff</i>
Hilltop Fruit Trees, LLC.		<i>Hollenbeck, Melvin</i>	Spinniken, Alan
Honee Bear Canning, Steve Packer		Homan, John	<i>Springer, Jerry</i>
<i>Hoxie, Bill</i>		<i>Hubbell, Keith</i>	Stanton, Greg
<i>Jamieson, Martha</i>		<i>Jelinek, Martin</i>	<i>Summit Sales, Inc.</i>
Johnson, Gerald		<i>Kamp, Ken</i>	<i>SVF, Inc. Steven Kalchik</i>
Johnson, Mark		<i>Kelly, Mark</i>	<i>Underwood, Tim</i>
Johnson, William		Kiessel, Don	UP-Cerexagri, Inc.
<i>Kobernik, Carl</i>		<i>King, James</i>	Veliquette, Dean and Gene
<i>Kolarik, Chris</i>		<i>King, John</i>	<i>Voelker Implement Sales, Inc.</i>
LaCross, Ben		<i>Klein, Bill</i>	<i>White, Gerald</i>
<i>Lautner, Jim</i>		<i>Kolarik, Jerome</i>	White, Jack
Linvingston, Kathleen		<i>Kolarik, Julius</i>	<i>Williams, Greg</i>

\$250 - \$499	\$500 - \$9499		\$9500 and above
Mutual Farm Management Co.	<i>Bakker, Alan</i>	<i>Greenstone, Gordon Tulgetske</i>	Bull, Kenneth
<i>Hoxsie, Dennis</i>	<i>Brandt, Gerald</i>	<i>Gregory, Don and Anne</i>	Cherry Bay Orchards, Don and Bob Gregory
<i>SVF, Inc. Steven Kalchik</i>	<i>Cherry Republic., Bob Sutherland</i>	<i>Hamilton Agronomy, Jeff Layman</i>	<i>Cherry Growers Inc.</i>
<i>Finger, Eben</i>	<i>Coe, Don</i>	<i>Indian Summer Coop Inc., Roy Hackert</i>	<i>Smeltzer Orchard Company</i>
<i>Muth, Andrew</i>	Fredrickson, Gary	<i>Kalchik, Steve</i>	
	<i>Gd.Traverse Fruit Growers' Council</i>	<i>Lentz, Bill</i>	
	Gray and Co., Jim Reynolds		

## Wine Grape Pruning at NWMHRS

MSU researchers, staff, and volunteers have been working to finish up pruning the winegrape variety trial that was planted in 2008 at the NWMHRS. We hope to have the vines fully established this year, and the goal is to produce a sufficient crop for viticultural data collection and enology trials.



**NW Michigan  
Horticultural  
Research Foundation**

6686 South Center Highway  
Traverse City, MI 49684

Phone: 231-946-1510  
Fax: 231-946-1404

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.nwmihort.org](http://www.nwmihort.org)



## Cherry Marketing Advertising Campaign At Work

### Have you heard?

Cherry Marketing Institute (CMI) launched a new advertising campaign for cherries in the food trade magazine arena. At the station, Bill Klein was flipping through the April issue of *Prepared Foods*, and on page 22 was a beautiful ad with a cherry-studded muffin and the “Go **RED Instead**” catch phrase. CMI was also listed in the back with all the other Healthy Ingredient Supplier's Profile. We hope this new mode of communication will help

increase the use of cherries as ingredients. Nice work, CMI!

Check it out:

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

