Our mission
is to conserve and promote America’s culturally diverse but endangered garden and food crop heritage for future generations by collecting, growing, and sharing heirloom seeds and plants.

Over 65,000 individuals and organizations funded Seed Savers Exchange in 2014

Thank you!
Dear Seed Savers Exchange Supporter,

Seed Savers Exchange began as a small operation, just a group of gardeners dedicated to saving seeds. Like the seeds themselves, we’ve grown each year into something stronger and more bountiful than the year before. We are now a recognized leader in the heirloom and open-pollinated seed movement, thanks to the community of generous supporters like you who have helped us to grow since 1975. This 2014 Annual Report is solid proof of your important role in our continued growth.

Seed Savers Exchange is more committed than ever to protecting and promoting heirloom seeds. From growing out seeds in the field to quality testing in the lab, Seed Savers Exchange has the professional expertise to properly preserve and share our precious collection. Our educational and outreach efforts bring these seeds to the next generation of seed savers through the Community Seed Resource Program and our Herman’s Garden Seed Donation Program.

Please join Seed Savers Exchange in celebrating another wonderful year with our community of supporters – members, gardeners, volunteers, and donors – people like you. We have confidence that with your continued support our progress will be even more remarkable in the years to come.

I truly appreciate your many contributions and I understand just how much each little bit helps. The board of directors joins me in thanking you for supporting our important work.

With sincere appreciation,

Diane Ott Whealy
Online Seed Exchange Upgrades and Improvements

The second phase of a major project to improve the scope, function, and significance of the Online Seed Exchange is complete. Thanks to generous support from The 1772 Foundation and the UNFI Foundation, Seed Savers Exchange was able to incorporate new functionality into individual plant variety pages. The Online Seed Exchange is a place for Seed Savers Exchange members to request or post varieties to share with other growers. The new “Share a Story” and “Share a Recipe” buttons allow space to tell the history, describe ideal growing conditions, and even share family recipes for each variety.

The Exchange connects gardeners from all over the United States and provides grower contact information for over 16,000 varieties. The seeds pictured above were sent with handwritten notes from the grower.
The Community Seed Resource Program (CSRP) was launched in 2013 by Seed Matters, with Seed Savers Exchange partnering with the project in 2014. The program provides toolkits, resources, and mentorship to seed libraries, community gardens, and other seed-focused initiatives. In 2014, over 100 community groups from 33 states were welcomed into the CSRP network. The CSRP will continue to grow in 2015 and is now accepting applications year-round.

Arlene Peterson, a new CSRP participant, said this about the program: “We were so excited to receive the CSRP toolkit yesterday. I just had to write to thank you all at Seed Savers. Your work, resources, and tools are greatly appreciated. [These resources] will give us a great starting point for our first community seed swap.”
Sharing the Stories of Seeds

A $30,000 Innovation Grant from The 1772 Foundation allowed SSE to hire an assistant seed historian to document the histories of the varieties in our collection that originated from commercial seed companies. This research is part of SSE’s ongoing work to document the story of each variety in the collection, the Collection Origins Research Effort (CORE). Thanks to the CORE program, SSE’s seed historians can seek out the stories that illuminate each variety in the collection, such as the story of ‘Grandpa Miller’ potato.

The ‘Grandpa Miller’ potato was added to the collection at Seed Savers Exchange in 2014. It was donated by Mike Green of Creswell, Oregon. Mike grew the potato for years and originally received it from his maternal grandmother, Loris Mae (Miller) Borden. Young Loris can be seen above, sitting with the giant tubers in Ophir, Oregon, in 1921. The variety was named after Loris’ grandfather, Willis Wiley Miller, who moved to the Ophir area around 1880 to pan for gold. Mike claims his great-great-grandfather’s potatoes “are good keepers and do well baked in the oven.”
Preserving the Collection

The Seed Savers Exchange Preservation Department focuses on maintaining physical inventory and information about the more than 20,000 plant varieties in the Heritage Farm Collection. The department stewards the seeds, tubers, rhizomes, bulbs, and trees; plus historic documents, stories, and evaluations that make up the largest publicly accessible garden variety collection in the United States. SSE staff adheres to the highest standards of biological and cultural preservation practices to ensure the future of the varieties they tend. The goal is simple: inspire gardeners to participate in the heirloom seed movement by growing, sharing, and saving heritage varieties.

Making More Plants

SSE staff regenerated 665 varieties to produce seeds and tubers for distribution to members through the Yearbook. An additional 581 varieties were grown in order to document plant characteristics such as height and size, color, and days to maturity.
Evaluation Goes to College

The SSE Preservation Department has joined Tennessee State University in a project to promote careers in plant breeding. Varieties from SSE’s Heritage Farm Collection will be used to teach young plant scientists to assess, select, and breed specific plant traits. In the process, the students will provide SSE with invaluable data reflecting the traits and genetic markers of:

- **37 varieties of amaranth**
- **60 varieties of beans**
- **102 varieties of lima beans**

Squash Cages

Squash production trials were conducted in four 18-by-50-foot isolation cages, the largest cages ever used at Heritage Farm. By growing squash in “extra, extra-large cages” and partnering with a local honey bee keeper to pollinate the crops, healthier seeds were harvested. Hundreds of hours of manual labor were saved that would have otherwise been spent hand-pollinating the flowers. More cages will be purchased in coming years.
Exchange Listings Increase

SSE offered 2,579 varieties from the Heritage Farm Collection to our members through the Online Seed Exchange, nearly 150 more varieties than the previous year. Staff fulfilled 797 requests for seed, scion wood, and tubers for members across the country.
Seeds Lost, Seeds Found

Forty new accessions were welcomed into the Heritage Farm Collection, along with their stories. Of these, 37 are recognized heirlooms, the highest-priority designation in the collection. These varieties have since been grown to produce seeds for distribution and will be available to members in 2016. See highlights below:

‘Ukrainian Pole’ bean – William Mihovan brought this stunningly beautiful purple and white bean to the U.S. from Ukraine in 1927.

‘Walter Buhr’ pea – A Buhr family heirloom since 1928, seed was passed from father to son in 1977. When Walter’s son lost his seed in 2008, he thought the whole variety was gone. Unbeknownst to him, his father had also passed the pea seed to a nephew. The family seed lived on and is now safe in the Heritage Farm Collection.
The Seed House: Growing and Sharing Heirloom Seeds and Plants

The Seed House publishes and mails a free 100-page seed catalog to customers and members each year and also offers catalog items online. The Seed House manages the growth and regeneration of seeds, and handles the packaging, sales, and shipping of over 600 individual varieties of seeds, plants, and tubers. The disbursement of heirloom seeds and plants through the Seed House helps put heirloom varieties in the hands of farmers, backyard gardeners, and chefs, and invites people into the SSE member community.

- Distributed 250,000 seed catalogs
- Grew 97 varieties for catalog seed sales
- Planted 62,000 garlic bulbs of 15 different varieties
- Grew 369 varieties for lot checks, trials, and photos
- Grafted 500 apple trees of 5 different varieties from the Historic Orchard
- Introduced 8 varieties from the Heritage Farm Collection through the seed catalog, helping ensure the preservation of these rare plants
- Shared 545,774 seed packets with 608 Seed Rack locations nationwide
- Offered 336 Certified Organic seed varieties
Events at Heritage Farm

Over 15,000 visitors traveled to Heritage Farm to buy seeds and plants, attend workshops, and tour the farm. The staff at the Lillian Goldman Visitors Center welcomed guests that traveled from across the country or around the world.

SSE’s 2014 events featured popular classics, such as the Tomato Tasting Festival, Apple Grafting Workshop, and three-day Seed Saving School. New in 2014 were two gardening workshops, the Spring Garden School and Fall Harvest School.
SSE’s Seed Saving School is an immersive three-day weekend of all things seed-related, including seed industry history, hands-on seed harvesting, botany lessons, and field trips.

**On-Site events**

- Spring Garden School
- Apple Grafting
- Heritage Plant Sale
- Community Field Day
- Tomato Tasting Festival
- Seed Saving School
- Fall Harvest School

**Annual Conference & Campout**

Featured speakers included:

- Bryan Welch,
- Dr. Virginia Nazarea,
- Dr. Susan McCouch, and
- Andrew Still & Sarah Kleeger

1,776 people attended on-site events at Heritage Farm in 2014.
Off-Site Events

The SSE Heritage Apple Tour was featured at the Mill City Farmers Market in Minneapolis, MN in October. Farmers market shoppers sampled 50 apple varieties from Heritage Farm as well as several apple appetizers prepared by Minneapolis chef Beth Dooley.

The SSE Tomato Tasting Festival also hit the road and traveled to the Tiny Diner in Minneapolis. Twin City area growers were provided with tomato transplants early in the year and invited to share their bounty at the event. Crowds enjoyed tasting a variety of fresh, locally grown, heirloom tomatoes. Participating farmers proudly stood behind their produce and were available to answer questions about their farming practices and their experience growing each variety, as seen below.

Workshops and Presentations around the U.S.

- Cluck! Urban Farm Supply Providence, RI
- Downeast Heirloom Apple Day Ellsworth, ME
- Duluth Public Library Duluth, MN
- Fairfield Public Library Fairfield, IA
- Georgia Seed Swap Decatur, GA
- Historic Apple Trees of Badger Prairie du Sac, WI
- La Crosse Public Library La Crosse, WI
- Moline Public Library Moline, IL
- Marion Heritage Center Marion, IA
- MOSES Conference La Crosse, WI
- Mother Earth News Fair Asheville, NC
- Mother Earth News Fair Topeka, KS
- Midwest Renewable Energy Association Fair Custer, WI
- Mt. Horeb Public Library Mt. Horeb, WI
- Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture Philadelphia, PA
- The Pepperfield Project Themed Dinners Decorah, IA
- Seed Savers Exchange Membership Luncheon Chicago, IL
- Taste of Italy, Minneapolis Institute of Arts Minneapolis, MN
- Terra Madre Turin, Italy
Educational Resources

For the third consecutive year, SSE staff and friends offered live, monthly, online presentations on a variety of topics, including garden photography, fall planting, and saving seeds from flowers and herbs.

Our archived 2014 webinars have been viewed over 12,000 times on YouTube. (https://www.youtube.com/user/SSEHeritageFarm)

2014 Webinar Topics:

History of the Seed Industry
Requesting Seeds through the Seed Exchange
Saving Seeds from Legumes
Saving Seeds from Flowers
Saving Seeds from Biennial Crops
Garden Photography
Planning Your Fall Garden
Saving Seeds from Cucurbits
Cider Making
Offering Seeds through the Seed Exchange
Root Cellaring
Food Origins
Herman’s Garden Seed Donation Program

Last year, our Herman’s Garden Seed Donation Program gave 33,390 seed packets to gardens around the country, such as the Coralville Ecumenical Food Pantry in Iowa. Affectionately named in honor of long-time member Herman Warsh and his wife Maryanne Mott, Herman’s Garden seed donations support school gardens, community groups, and other non-profits focused on food production and education.

“Your donations helped us launch our Seed Library, which makes a variety of heirloom seeds available to low-resource individuals living in our community. This past season, over 1,400 seed packets were distributed and over 100 of our food pantry clients reported having success in growing their own food via container gardening.”

CORALVILLE ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY

Partners & Affiliations

Working together with others who share our values, we were able to accomplish more than would have been possible on our

Decorah Chamber of Commerce  Organic Seed Alliance  Terrace Hill, Iowa Governor’s Mansion
Decorah Urban Gardeners (DUG)  Pepperfield Project  Trout Unlimited
Growing Interactive  Seed Matters  University of Wisconsin-Madison
The Livestock Conservancy  Slow Food USA  USDA, National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation
Minnesota State Horticulture  Southern Exposure Seed Exchange  Svalbard Global Seed Bank
Society  Organic Seed Alliance  TERRA Chips
Native Seeds / SEARCH  Pepperfield Project  Ogden Press / Mother Earth News
Ogden Press / Mother Earth News  Seed Matters  Slow Food USA
Southern Exposure Seed Exchange  Svalbard Global Seed Bank  TERRA Chips
Svalbard Global Seed Bank  Terrace Hill, Iowa Governor’s Mansion
TERRA Chips  Trout Unlimited  University of Wisconsin-Madison
Terrace Hill, Iowa Governor’s Mansion  Slow Food USA  USDA, National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation
TERRA Chips  Terrace Hill, Iowa Governor’s Mansion  Svalbard Global Seed Bank
USDA, National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation  Organic Seed Alliance  TERRA Chips
Winnebago County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Winnebago County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Seed Savers Exchange Financial Information

Statement of Activity

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<tr>
<th>SUPPORT AND REVENUES</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<td>Sales/Shipping</td>
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<td>Corporate Contributions</td>
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<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Conference/Events</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
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<td><strong>$6,044,316</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Programming and Outreach</td>
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<td>Management and General</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>$5,882,614</strong></td>
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Visit seedsavers.org/about-us for more information about programs that are funded by contributions.

Sponsors

We extend our thanks to the generous sponsors who supported our work in 2014

The strength of Seed Savers Exchange goes beyond the health of the Heritage Farm Collection, the dedication of its staff, and the size of its membership. Seed Savers Exchange is a leader in the heirloom seed movement thanks to countless volunteer hours and the expertise of the board of directors, advisors, and interns listed below.

**Board of Directors**
*(as of December 31, 2014)*

Governing the organization, committed to the non-profit mission, Directors bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the Board.

Keith Crotz, Chair
Neil Hamilton, Vice-Chair
Larry Grimstad, Treasurer
David Cavagnaro
Rosalind Creasy
Rob Johnston Jr.
Hope Shand
Martin Teitel
Rowen White

**Elected in 2014**

Amy P. Goldman Fowler, Special Advisor to the Board

**Advisors**
*(as of December 31, 2014)*

Experts from near and far are on call to advise in the management of the collection.

Suzanne Ashworth
Dan Beard
Clive Blazey
Dave Ellis
Joel Girardin
Jim Henry
Lindsay Lee

Craig LeHoullier
Beth Lynch
Deborah Madison
Laura Merrick
Phillip Sponenberg
John Swenson
Lee Zeike

**Interns**

Interns do so much to help SSE achieve the mission. They in turn benefit from on-the-job training and mentoring by experienced staff.

Anthony Chase
Katherine Mathis
Colleen Oster
Kailey Peterson

Hannah Rowse
Angela Stancato
Nicole Wink
2014 Employees

Tim Abbott
Karen Anderson
Lisa Beiwel
Greg Biehn
Rachel Black
Lisa Blaess
Anne Bohl
Lauren Bonney
Josie Boyle
Beth Bundy
Steven Burg
Dianne Burke
Aaron Burmeister
Daniel Bussey
Claudia Cackler
Toby Cain
Katie Carlson
Steve Carlson
Renata Christen
Heidi Cook
Corey Cordell
Daniel DeVoe
Linda Drackley
James Edrington
Solveig Entwistle
Laura Fuller
Cindy Goodner
Kathy Greentree
Adam Grim
Trisha Hageman
LouAnn Hall
Fena Hershberger
Amy Holmgren
Sarah Horns
Devon Hovey
Jenna Hrdlicka
Sarah Imoehl
Tor Janson
Richard Jensen
Timothy Johnson
Paul Kadlec
Philip Kauth
Ashley Keul
Taylor Kinley
John Kraus
Jessica Ludwig
Paul Ludwig
Susan Luzum
Trevor Madsen
Katie Mathis
Megan McElhaney
Carolyn McLaughlin
Abe Mendez
Steffen Mirsky
Bill Musser
David Nelson
Jordan Nelson
Laura Ollendick
Anna Olson
Grant Olson
Tara Oyloe
James Palmer
Korbin Paul
Eric Rasmussen
Cynthia Reifenrath
Lynne Rilling
Kathleen Rosendahl
Zach Row-Heyveld
Jenna Sicuranza
Phillip Smith
Andrea Springmeier
Sarah Stevens
Sara Straate
Bryan Stuart
Paul Sullivan
Kelly Tagtow
Greg Thorson
Joanne Thuente
Bill Tieskotter
John Torgrimson
Pat Torgrimson
John van der Linden
Therese Vang
Tom Wahlberg
Sherman Watts
Josh Wennes
Diane Ott Whealy
Kinsey Whitehill
Cindy Williams
Jane Wilson
Jennifer Zoch

Volunteers

Seed Savers Exchange is grateful for the generous volunteers who selflessly donate their time to the organization, whether they are filling seed orders, planting apple trees, or helping at on-site events.

Viktor Blasjo
Anna Bonavita
Massimo Bonavita
Katie Carlson
Carol Colson
Emma Cornwell
Mary Anne Crotz
Randall Duvall
Dan Forsythe
Megan Gilbert
Martin Gordon
Laura Goetsch
Brad Hackman
Koby Jeschkeit-Hagen
Pahoua Hoffman
Jesse Kando
Chelsea Krist
Lindsay Lee
Sarah McMenomy
Corrin Meise-Munns
Kailey Peterson
Elaine Plamondon
John Reifenrath
Alexandra Robinson
Tess Romanski
Alayna Schutte
Emmaren Smock
Janet Snider
Emi Sogabe
Mary Stade
Caleb Stellmach
Heidi Swets
Sarah McMenomy, a regular volunteer from Rochester, MN, assists orchard manager Dan Bussey.

Emily Turck
Becky Wagner
Paige Wettach
Marlie Wilson
Megan Woodward
Lee Zieke
Heirloom Society
Seed Savers Exchange Planned Giving Group

Like our ancestors who saved their best seeds and passed them on to family and friends, you have an opportunity to create an heirloom legacy that will preserve America’s garden heritage long into the future. Make a gift that will cost nothing during your lifetime.

We cannot do the work of preserving our garden heritage without you.

Explore creative ways to give.

seedsavers.org/giving

Contact Cindy Goodner, Fundraising Coordinator
563-387-5670 • cgoodner@seedsavers.org for more information