

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ELDEN JAMES STANG

Elden James Stang passed away on May 26, 2013 following a stroke. Elden was a faculty member in the Department of Horticulture for 17 years until his retirement in 1995. Elden was born in Kansas and attended Kansas State University, where he obtained his bachelor of science degree in horticulture. He served in the Peace Corps in Chile from 1961 to 1963, working in community development, agricultural mechanization, and crop production. During his Peace Corps service, Elden met and married his wife, Judy. Elden completed an MS and PhD in horticulture at Iowa State University and then served as an assistant professor in the Department of Horticulture at Ohio State University from 1973 to 1978.

Elden joined the faculty in the Department of Horticulture at UW-Madison in 1978 and was promoted to associate professor in 1982 and then to professor in 1987. His work focused on commercial fruit production with an emphasis on cranberry, cherry, strawberry, blueberry, and apple. Elden helped change the relationship between the university and the many distinct fruit commodity groups by promoting a model where each group hired its own executive director instead of relying on university staff for leadership. He also helped consolidate numerous grower meetings into more focused gatherings and established a set of summer mini-clinics where growers and extension personnel could interact on farms. In 1988, Elden's appointment shifted toward research and teaching.

Elden's research helped shed light on the role of pollination in fruit set in cranberry. He promoted the diversification of fruit crop production in Wisconsin through the use of underutilized crops such as lingonberry, juneberry, and elderberry. In 1987, he was awarded a Fulbright fellowship in Finland where he worked on lingonberries. This work led to the release of two lingonberry cultivars ('Regal' and 'Splendor'). Dr. Stang also released a blueberry cultivar, 'Friendship.'

Dr. Stang authored or co-authored numerous research publications on fruit crops and provided a substantial number of extension publications. He advised several graduate students. He was also an author of two extension newsletters for Wisconsin fruit growers. Elden's work also led to the creation of an endowed chair in cranberry production, known as the Gottschalk Endowed Chair, which was established in 1990.

During his last year of employment at UW-Madison, Elden developed a collaboration with the founder of Cran Chile. Elden was drawn to this opportunity because of his cranberry expertise and love for the Chilean people resulting from his Peace Corps service as a young man. He took a year's leave of absence from the university to establish a large cranberry growing operation in southern Chile. After retirement, he worked with Cran Chile for two additional years. This work helped pioneer the development of commercial cranberry production in the southern hemisphere.

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