



Helping People Help the Land

# Conservation Notes

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service - Michigan

January/February 2015

## Civil Rights Leader Speaks at USDA Event

Dr. William Anderson lived the civil rights movement. He grew up in Georgia, served in World War II and became doctor of osteopathic medicine. Anderson confronted racism at every step of his life's journey and was an active participant in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. On Feb. 10, he shared his experience with USDA employees at a Black History program held in East Lansing.

A lecture series sponsored by the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine is named in honor of Dr. Anderson. In February the series brought civil rights leaders Congressman John Lewis, founder and chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Harry Belafonte, renowned singer and actor and civil rights activist and the Rev. Al Sharpton, civil rights leader and head of the National Action Network, to the MSU campus.

After coming home from serving in World War II and starting a family, Anderson decided to pursue a career in medicine. In the 1950s there were only two predominantly black medical schools in the country, said Anderson. The college he attended, then the Alabama College for Negroes, was not officially accredited. After learning about osteopathy he applied and was accepted into the osteopathy program at Des Moines University in Iowa.

Moving north did not end his experiences with racism, said Anderson. An official with the



*Soil Conservationist Tamarra Roseburgh looks on while Dr. William G. Anderson speaks to USDA employees during the Black History Program held in East Lansing on Feb. 10.*

university told him he was not to socialize with white females. Later at a school function he was asked to dance by a white faculty member and he accepted.

"The walls of discrimination ended at that event," said Anderson.

He also experienced discrimination during his internship at a hospital in Flint. In the beginning he was only assigned black patients. The other interns were assigned patients as they arrived at the emergency room. Anderson asked hospital officials to allow him to attend white patients and offered to withdraw if any complained. He won

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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

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## State Conservationist's Message

In May of last year Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack came to Bay City to announce "a new era in American conservation efforts."

Secretary Vilsack was talking about the Regional Conservation Partnership Program that was created under the 2014 Farm Bill. Through RCPP, NRCS resources are expanded through partnership agreements to address regional conservation concerns. Five RCPP of the projects selected will expand conservation efforts in Michigan. These include three multi-state projects and two involving only Michigan.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is the lead partner on two of the projects. One project targets reducing phosphorus runoff from farmland in the Western Lake Erie Basin that includes parts of Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. The other project will promote practices to improve water quality and conserve groundwater in the St. Joseph River Watershed in Michigan and Indiana. The other multi-state project includes Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The American Bird Conservancy is the lead partner in a project to improve habitat on private forestland for the golden-winged warbler and other wildlife.

There are two projects within Michigan. The first is led by the Department of Natural Resources and will train public and private foresters to assist private forest owners. The other Michigan project targets conservation activities on agricultural land in the Saginaw Bay Watershed and is led The Nature Conservancy.

All five projects include additional public and private partners who are providing technical and financial assistance. The efforts of these conservation partners will magnify the impact

of the conservation funding provided by NRCS. The services they provide will include outreach to potential cooperating landowners, monitoring the impact of the conservation practices applied and making new conservation tools available to address resource concerns.



*State Conservationist  
Garry Lee*

Michigan definitely stands to benefit from this new era of conservation and we look forward to working with our RCPP partners.

~

Each year a committee of Michigan USDA employees organizes a program to educate their colleagues about the accomplishments and struggles of African Americans during Black History Month. This year's committee brought a true hero of the American Civil Rights Movement to speak

at the program. Dr. William G. Anderson was the leader of the Albany Movement in Georgia that demanded equal rights for blacks in that community. Anderson's friends Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ralph Abernathy came to Albany to support the movement.

The Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, of which Dr. Anderson is a faculty member, named its civil rights lecture series after Dr. Anderson. We at USDA were honored to have Dr. Anderson as our guest and the Black History Month Committee is commended for providing such an honored speaker.



*State Conservationist Garry Lee and civil rights leader Dr. William G. Anderson.*

## Forest Management Workshops Offered

A series of five forest management plan workshops are scheduled in March for foresters and wildlife biologists. The workshop will enable participants to renew or obtain certification as tree farm inspectors and forest stewardship plan writers.

The workshops are hosted by the Forest Stewardship Program. They are tentatively planned to run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at five locations. The workshops cover a variety of forest programs and will be conducted by government and private industry foresters.

The one-day workshop is scheduled for March 18 in East Lansing, March 19 in Grayling, March 24

in Newberry, March 25 in Escanaba and March 26 in Houghton.

There is no cost to attend a workshop but participants are asked to register at least one week in advance. Participants can register by contacting Mike Smalligan, DNR Forest Stewardship Coordinator at 517/284-5884 or by e-mail at [smalliganm@michigan.gov](mailto:smalliganm@michigan.gov).

The workshops are targeted to professional foresters, land managers and wildlife biologists who provide services to private landowners. Forestry students are also encouraged to attend.



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## Civil Rights Leader Speaks at USDA Event

over every patient.

After finishing his residency Anderson moved back to Georgia. "My wife said, 'they don't need you up here,'" said Anderson. He started a practice in Albany, Ga. and eventually was seeing 100 patients a day.

In 1961, Anderson was approached by representatives of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. They were leading an effort to register blacks to vote. Anderson agreed to join what was called the Albany Movement to confront racism.

After Anderson's wife, Norma, was arrested during a march, he asked Martin Luther King, Jr. to come to Albany to support the movement. King was a friend of his wife's family, and they had become friends while both were living in Atlanta. King drew large audiences in Albany and made four appearances to meet the demand. The city eventually closed all of its public facilities instead of integrating them. In later years public facilities were integrated and blacks gained a larger role in local government after they gained the vote.

Anderson continued his career in osteopathy,



*Dr. William G. Anderson spoke at the Black History Program on Feb. 10, organized by the USDA BHM Committee. In the photo above are committee members, (l-r) Lucretia Steward, Anderson, Troy Nichols, Tamarra Roseburgh, Diane Gardin, Reggie Magee and Elva Rosenthal.*

becoming the first elected national president of the American Osteopathic Association and serving as a faculty member of the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

## Farmer Drills Cover Crops Before Harvest

By Kristen Kiluk, NRCS Soil Conservationist - Reed City

Arguably the biggest challenge in growing cover crops in Michigan is establishing them after the fall harvest. A Lake County farmer decided not to wait until fall, instead he plants his cover crops in the summer, right next to his established soybean and corn crops.

Jack Thornton, 28, helps out with his family's livestock operation in Lake County and is building his own sustainable corn, soybean, and oat production system. Entering his third season of experimenting with cover crops, Thornton describes the biggest challenge as, "getting them in early enough to grow to a certain maturity where they're actually doing something good." In his first year, he waited until after harvest to plant, but his only viable option at that time of year was cereal rye. A single species cover crop is still beneficial, but he wanted to establish a greater variety of cover crops to fulfill more soil health goals.

In his second year of planting cover crops, Thornton planted mixes of species between standing rows of corn and soybeans in mid-July. Using a modified drill, he was able to establish a highly diverse cover crop mix comprised of species that wouldn't have done well in the cooler temperatures after harvest.

"Different cover crops produce different benefits for soil health," said NRCS State Agronomist Jerry Grigar. "Some species fix nitrogen, scavenge leftover nutrients in the soil, and control weeds while others extend roots and extract water and nutrients from deeper in the soil profile."

Thornton found that planting cover crops early did not hinder his corn and soybean crop. Since the covers were shaded by standing crops, they germinated and diverted energy toward root development without getting too tall or interfering with the harvest.

"The winter peas and the cowpeas were only a few inches tall but as I was digging them up, they had nodules on them," he said. "They obviously

produced nitrogen even though the plant wasn't growing in height."

This year, he's going to plant his cover crops even earlier – around week 6 through 8 of corn growth. Thornton is also designing a new planter to plant cover crops, sidedress, and spray herbicide all in one pass. "With this machine," he said, "I'm hoping for less compaction, fuel, and time." If there's enough interest, he may operate the machine for hire for others in the area looking for an efficient cover crop planting option.



Lake County farmers Jack and Cheryl Thornton.



During 2014, Lake County farmer Jack Thornton started planting a mixture of cover crops between rows of standing soybeans and corn using a modified no-till drill. Cover crops planted with the drill germinated at a higher rate than broadcasting. The cover crops established themselves in time to provide agronomic benefits but did not grow large enough to affect harvesting.



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## Students Learn Conservation from Ancient Fish

by Maureen Stine, Soil Conservationist - Onaway

The town of Onaway, the renowned, Sturgeon Capitol of Michigan, situated in Presque Isle County has launched a Lake Sturgeon in the Classroom Program in their high school along with a small handful of schools across the state.

Permits granted from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources enable schools to legally possess a juvenile lake sturgeon (currently listed a state-threatened species, P.A. No. 451 of 1994). The students are responsible for the care of their yearling sturgeon (8-12" in length) while teachers help students build their educational coursework around the species throughout the school year. But there's more to the new program than just glancing at fish in a tank as students pass between their daily classes.

Modeled loosely after the state's well-established 'Salmon in the Classroom' Program, this Lake Sturgeon outreach enables school districts to shift from raising non-native salmon in a classroom aquarium to a superior academic exploration of the biology, physiology and cultural significance of these living fossils. The program is overseen by the Black Lake Chapter of Sturgeon for Tomorrow based upon their long-standing expertise with conservation efforts and outreach



*NRCS Soil Conservationist Maureen Stine with Onaway High School students and the school's lake sturgeon. The fish is part of a schoolwide project.*

surrounding the plight of this prehistoric, native species. In 2014, Lake Sturgeon in the Classroom celebrated its 2nd successful year of program implementation. With leadership from SFT, students of Onaway High School take learning outside the confines of their campus to play an

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## Early Planting Helps to Establish Cover Crop Mix

Thornton estimates that in his second year he spent about \$60 per acre for seed and establishment of a cover crop. But with his other savings and yield increases, the investment more than pays for itself.

He also found that switching to no-till planting has increased his ease of management. Even though it takes his un-tilled soils about a week longer to reach planting temperatures than conventionally tilled, he appreciates being able to get in the field right away. "With the fuel and time savings," he said, "I don't have to put the time into working up the fields, so I can be ready

to plant as soon as it warms up."

To anybody interested in experimenting with cover crops, Thornton recommends cereal rye as a great cover to begin with because of its hardiness and flexibility in planting time near the end of the growing season. He also says farmers shouldn't panic if they don't see it germinate right away – it doesn't look like much in the fall, but in the spring you'll see a lot of biomass.

After witnessing all of these benefits, the Thorntons are now hooked on soil health management.

## Wayne County Hoophouse Workshops Announced

The Southeast Michigan Resource Conservation and Development Council announced dates and course descriptions for its 2015 series of hoophouse workshops and events.

Hoophouses, referred to as seasonal high tunnels by the USDA, are metal framed structures covered by plastic and used primarily to grow food crops for local consumption. NRCS provides financial assistance for the purchase and construction of seasonal high tunnels through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. NRCS has allocated targeted funding for the construction of seasonal high tunnels in Wayne County but funding is available statewide.

The Southeast Michigan RC&D began its 2015 hoophouse workshops in February, with sessions on a variety of topics scheduled through September. Examples of topics covered include; Anatomy of a Hoophouse, two full-day hoophouse demonstration builds, marketing and pricing produce and season extension fundamentals.

All of the workshops are located in Wayne County and are free to attend. For more information go to [semircd.org/projects/hightunnels](http://semircd.org/projects/hightunnels). Information is also available by contacting the Southeast Michigan RCD at 517/851-2372 or by e-mail at [jessica.simons@semircd.org](mailto:jessica.simons@semircd.org).

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## Students Learn Conservation from Ancient Fish

active role in watershed investigations, water quality testing, and the celebrated, Sturgeon Guarding Program. A sort of 'take back the night' for fish, student volunteer sturgeon guards camp out along the banks of the Black River in Onaway to ensure that poachers are kept at bay during the wee hours of the sturgeon spawning season between April and May. This connectivity of community ownership to students, embodies the very intent behind the EL movement and the

yields it sets forth to gain. "I like being out on the river and playing a part in protecting the sturgeon. I grew up in Onaway and doing this makes me feel like I am making a difference", shared Onaway High School Alumni, Mryranda Anglin.



*Fingerling lake sturgeon*

### So what is Environmental Literacy?

Some surmise that it is the overarching goal of conservation or environmental education; reaching our citizens and instilling awareness of their natural world in order to promote appreciation and augment positive behaviors towards the environment. According to the Campaign for Environmental Literacy (Est. 2005), there are five essential components to successfully achieve E.L. These include Awareness, Knowledge, Attitudes, Skills and Collective Action. In one small Northern Michigan town, this good model is already unfolding and young citizens are leading the charge.

Redirecting an educational focus towards Michigan's natural history helps educators and resource professionals maintain credibility when throwing around terms like Place-Based Education. What could possibly serve as a more ideal place-making experience than immersing young conservation stewards in conserving an ancient fish within its own legacy watershed?

To volunteer for the Sturgeon Guarding Program which begins again in April 2015 on Black Lake, contact Sturgeon for Tomorrow by visiting their website at: [www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org](http://www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org).

## Beyond Stumpage, other Factors in a Timber Sale

by Bill Cook, Michigan State University Extension

The dollar value of timber is one of the more common queries from family forest owners. It is a very good question, but not easily answered for a variety of reasons.

The monetary value of standing timber is called stumpage; this is what the timber owner gets paid by the logging contractor. Stumpage varies with species, tree size, tree quality, stand composition, stand volume, landowner objectives, site access, market access, geographical region, season, weather and a host of other factors.

Trees are a source of raw wood material. The logger manufactures the trees into a product useable by a mill. The margin between stumpage and mill prices is where the logger makes a living, if possible. Small volumes of wood are the most difficult to move commercially, unless the trees have exceptional quality.

Stumpage values can range from zero to over \$1000 per thousand board feet. A single timber sale might net tens of thousands of dollars for a landowner. There is no statewide "blue book" or look-up table for stumpage values in a specific forest. However, there are a couple of tracking services by ownership or across the Lake States. They provide ballpark estimates for certain commercial tree species and products. For example, sugar maple veneer logs command high prices, but scrub oak and ironwood pulpwood may not be marketable at all.

There are four basic products manufactured from trees: veneer, sawlogs, pulpwood and chips. Veneer and sawlogs have many sets of specifications, which can complicate pricing. Many sawlogs have grades, with somewhat regular price ranges. However, there are different scales for different species. Veneer specifications

are often peculiar to a mill and quite market-sensitive.

Most commonly, timber is bought in volume units of either cords or 1000 board feet (MBF). A cord is a stack of 8-foot logs, usually pulpwood, which runs 4 feet high and 4 feet wide. A board foot is the equivalent of a piece of wood 1 inch thick and 12 by 12 inches. Board foot volume is an estimate of the lumber inside a log or tree. It

does not include all of the wood in a log or tree. Lumber excludes wood volume that gets slabbed-off at the mill or becomes dust as the saw blade cuts through the wood.

So, how do landowners learn the value of their stumpage?

Three basic ways will unveil stumpage values in a specific stand of timber. The recent sale of a similar stand close by might be a good indicator, especially if the timber sale was a simple one, such

as an aspen clear-cut. If this example is relevant to you, talk to your neighbors. Second, timber buyers offer free estimates and can often buy timber on the spot. The catch is that they work for a company, not for you. Also, one buyer may make an offer based on a different set of trees than another, and this can be confusing to a landowner. Lastly, you can hire a professional forester to help guide you through the process.

People familiar with timber values, or who are not overly concerned about obtaining top dollar, will often use one of the first two methods. They work fine and many landowners are satisfied with the resulting sale. Word about reputable loggers travels well by word-of-mouth.

However, most people are unfamiliar with forest ecology and timber values but want to receive top dollar and protect forest quality. A professional forester, often a consulting forester,



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## USDA Urges Program Participants to Verify Conservation Compliance

The Agricultural Act of 2014 applies conservation compliance to Federal crop insurance premium subsidy eligibility requirements.

Conservation compliance provisions are designed to reduce soil loss on erosion-prone lands and to protect wetlands for the multiple benefits they provide. Anyone wishing to participate in the USDA federal crop insurance premium subsidy program must provide a certification of compliance on or before June 1 to be eligible for premium subsidy for the following reinsurance year, beginning July 1.

Conservation compliance applies to land on which an agricultural commodity is grown. An agricultural commodity is defined as a crop which is planted and produced by annual tilling of the soil, including tilling by one-trip planters;

or sugarcane. Vegetable crops that are annually tilled are considered agricultural commodities.

Orchards, vineyards, blueberries, and crops that are not planted by annually tilling of the soil are not agricultural commodities, but landowners will still need to verify conservation compliance in order to qualify for the crop insurance subsidy.

Producers who already have a conservation compliance form AD-1026 on file with USDA do not need to take any further action.



Producers with questions about conservation compliance should contact their local USDA Service Center. Information on conservation compliance is also available online at [www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov).

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## Other Factors in a Timber Sale Besides Stumpage

fills this role. They work for the landowner and are familiar with area logging contractors and mills.

According to a Michigan State University Extension educator, a consultant will work with your objectives and prepare a strategic plan to get there. Timber sales are often a key element of a forest management plan. The consultant will work with both you and logging contractors to make sure a harvest follows the approved forest prescriptions. Always use a contract and know what should be in the contract.

Most times, there are many facets to a timber sale. Which trees? What method of harvest? When? Why? What about roads and landings? Wildlife habitat impacts? Visual quality? Income tax implications? Keep in mind that the highest bid might not be the best option. Many times, a logger will make concessions that reduce the stumpage value, such as building a road or agreeing to a more challenging harvest practice.

A timber sale can go along way to achieving a wide range of management objectives.

For most people, a timber sale is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. If you're concerned about the future forest, then get the job done right. A timber sale is often a whole lot more than just cutting trees down.

*This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit [www.msue.msu.edu](http://www.msue.msu.edu).*



**Agriculture and  
Natural Resources  
Week**

**Michigan State  
University - East  
Lansing**

**March 7 -13**

## SWCS Seminar - A Matter of Balance

A seminar presented by the Michigan Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will examine the link between cropping practices and nutrient enrichment of surface water, such as what was experienced in Lake Erie in 2014.



“A Matter of Balance: Feeding our Crops and Protecting our Water in a Changing Climate,” will be presented from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 6, at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on the Michigan State University Campus in East Lansing. The seminar will feature speakers from three universities as well as Lenawee County farmer Blaine Baker and Tom Van Wagner, recently retired from NRCS.

The conference will examine the linkage between cropping practices and nutrient enrichment of runoff and drainage water, and offer practical solutions for capturing and cycling nitrogen, phosphorus and other potential contaminants in the root zone.

For more information, including how to register to attend the conference, go to [www.miswcs.org/Local\\_Events.html](http://www.miswcs.org/Local_Events.html)

### NRCS-Michigan Staffing Update

#### New Hires:

Jason DeMoss, Soil Conservationist - Grand Rapids (new hire)

Nicole Erdmann, Soil Conservationist - Adrian (new hire)

Diane Gray, ASTC Management & Strategy - East Lansing (formerly ASTC Administration)

Catherine Janiczak, Soil Conservationist - Allegan (new hire)

Jessica Kinch, Farm Bill Assistant - Portage (new hire)

#### Departures:

Christine Marshall, Soil Conservationist - Houghton (resigned)

Michael Rawson, Soil Conservationist Technician - Hastings (retired)

## Lactation Room Available

The NRCS state office in East Lansing has a lactation room available to support employees who are mothers of young children. The room provides a clean, secure and private environment for women who need to express breast milk during working hours.

The lactation room is located on the second floor near the conference rooms. The room is available to employees who work in the building as well as employees and visitors who are attending meetings or training.

Visitors can contact the second floor receptionist for assistance.

## MSU to Offer Hoophouse Course

The Michigan State University Department of Horticulture is offering a six-week, self-paced course on utilizing hoophouses for food production.

The first session of the course is underway and additional sections are planned. The course is being offered online with participants provided written materials, recorded presentations and weekly online chats with the course instructors. The cost for the course is \$150.

Hoophouses, referred to as seasonal high tunnels by the USDA, are metal framed structures covered by plastic and used primarily to grow food crops for local consumption. NRCS provides financial assistance for the purchase and construction of seasonal high tunnels through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

For more information contact Adam Montri at [hhonline@msu.edu](mailto:hhonline@msu.edu) or 517-353-0407



2015  
International  
Year of Soils

## Upcoming Events - Upcoming Events - Upcoming Events - Upcoming Events

March

March ctd.

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| <p><b>4</b> Michigan Bats &amp; White-Nosed Syndrome, 6 p.m. to 7:15, Gogebic Community College - Ironwood, for more information call 906/667-1100 ext. 632 or e-mail <a href="mailto:cory.howes@macd.org">cory.howes@macd.org</a></p> <p><b>6</b> "A Matter of Balance - Feeding our Crops and Protecting our Water in a Changing Climate," Michigan Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society Seminar, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Kellogg Hotel &amp; Conference Center - East Lansing, for more information go to: <a href="http://www.miswcs.org/Local_Events.html">www.miswcs.org/Local_Events.html</a></p> <p><b>7-14</b> Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, Michigan State University - East Lansing, for a list of events go to: <a href="http://anrweek.canr.msu.edu">anrweek.canr.msu.edu</a></p> <p><b>10-11</b> Michigan Farmers Market Conference, MSU Plant and Soils Building - East Lansing, for more information go to: <a href="http://www.miffs.org">www.miffs.org</a></p> <p><b>11</b> Building Your Soil with Compost, Manure &amp; Cover Crops, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30, Wexford Conservation District - Cadillac, for more information call 231/775-7681 ext. 3 or e-mail <a href="mailto:wexford@macd.org">wexford@macd.org</a></p> <p><b>12</b> Great Lakes Forage and Grazing Conference, MSU Kellogg Hotel &amp; Conference Center - East Lansing, for more information contact Lapeer MSU Extension at 810/667-0341 or e-mail <a href="mailto:houset@anr.msu.edu">houset@anr.msu.edu</a></p> <p><b>14</b> Anatomy of a Hoophouse Workshop, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Oakland Avenue Community Garden - Detroit, for more information go to <a href="http://semircd.org/projects/hightunnels">semircd.org/projects/hightunnels</a></p> <p><b>14</b> Branch Conservation District Annual Meeting &amp; Conservation EXPO, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., for more information go to <a href="http://www.branchcd.org">www.branchcd.org</a></p> <p><b>17</b> Farming for the Future, 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., Van Buren Conference Center - Paw Paw, for more information or to register call 269/657-4030 et. 5 or go to <a href="http://www.vanburencd.org">www.vanburencd.org</a></p> <p><b>18</b> Honey Bee Workshop, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Eaton Conservation District conference room - Charlotte, for more information and to RSVP call 517/543-5848 ext. 5 or go to: <a href="http://www.eatoncd.org">www.eatoncd.org</a></p> <p><b>18</b> Home Orchard Workshop, Peter White Library - Marquette, for more information contact the Marquette Conservation District at 906/226-2461 ext. 102</p> <p><b>18</b> Managing Fruit Tree Insects &amp; Diseases, Wexford Conservation District - Cadillac, for more information call 231/775-7681 ext. 3 or e-mail <a href="mailto:wexford@macd.org">wexford@macd.org</a></p> | <p><b>20</b> MAEAP Celebration - Farm Tour, Information &amp; Dinner, Szikslay Family Farms - Otisville, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30, RSVP by March 13, for more information call 810/630-6441 or 810/230-8766 ext. 110, e-mail <a href="mailto:jzietz@ctyfb.com">jzietz@ctyfb.com</a> or <a href="mailto:sonja.lapak@macd.org">sonja.lapak@macd.org</a></p> <p><b>24</b> 2015 Soil Health Series Kickoff Meeting, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Kettunen Center - Tustin, for more information and to RSVP call 231/832-5341 or e-mail <a href="mailto:greg.white@mi.usda.gov">greg.white@mi.usda.gov</a></p> <p><b>25</b> Conserve the Earth, Preserve the Worth, informational meeting sponsored by NRCS and the Gratiot Conservation District, 9:30 a.m. to noon, RESD Building - Ithaca, for more information and to RSVP call 989/875-3900 ext. 3 or e-mail <a href="mailto:matthew.jones@mi.usda.gov">matthew.jones@mi.usda.gov</a></p> <p><b>26</b> The Future of Bats, Peter White Library - Marquette, for more information contact the Marquette Conservation District at 906/226-2461 ext. 102</p> <p><b>26</b> Mid-Michigan Farm &amp; Garden Show, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Gladwin Community Center - Gladwin, for more information go to <a href="http://www.farmandgardenshow.com">www.farmandgardenshow.com</a></p> <p><b>28</b> Fruit Tree Health &amp; Pruning Workshop, Chocolay Township, for more information contact the Marquette Conservation District at 906/226-2461 ext. 102</p> |
| <b>April</b>  |  |
| <p><b>1</b> Managing Vegetable Insects &amp; Diseases, Wexford Conservation District - Cadillac, for more information call 231/775-7681 ext. 3 or e-mail <a href="mailto:wexford@macd.org">wexford@macd.org</a></p> <p><b>17-18</b> Spring Native Seedling Sale, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Kalamazoo Conservation District office - Portage, presale order deadline March 13, for more information call 269/382-5121 ext. 150 or e-mail <a href="mailto:kalamazooconservation@gmail.com">kalamazooconservation@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>24-26</b> Hoophouse Demonstration Build, Ortega Urban Farm - Detroit, for more information go to <a href="http://semircd.org/projects/hightunnels">semircd.org/projects/hightunnels</a></p>  | <p style="text-align: center; padding: 10px 0;"><b>May</b></p> <p><b>1</b> SWCS Highway Clean-Up, noon, meet at NRCS state office - East Lansing, for more information e-mail <a href="mailto:gaylynn.kinter@mi.usda.gov">gaylynn.kinter@mi.usda.gov</a></p>   |

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**USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service - Michigan**