

**Jennie Stanger
County Consumer Horticulture Agent
Monroe County MSU Extension
963 South Raisinville Road
Monroe Michigan 48161
(734) 240-3170**

ANR Week offers multiple opportunities for gardeners at MSU

Programs include the Michigan Wildflower Conference, the Michigan Herb Associates Annual Conference, a horticulture therapy workshop, the Michigan Beekeepers conference and a gardening program sponsored by the MSU Department of Horticulture.

The Michigan Wildflower Conference will take place March 7-8 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. Sponsored by the Wildflower Association of Michigan, it will focus on preserving and restoring biodiversity in generally urban and suburban yards. The keynote speaker is Bill Cullina, previously with the New England Wild Flower Society and now curator at the Costal Maine Botanical Garden in Boothbay, Maine.

For registration fees and more information, visit www.wildflowersmich.org or contact Jean Weirich by phone at 517-627-7927 or by e-mail at jeanweirich@gmail.com.

“Herbal Gardening, Cooking, Decorating -- Dill-ightful!” is the theme for the Michigan Herb Associates Annual Conference, March 10-11 at the Kellogg Center. Lectures and demonstrations will focus on dill, the 2010 Herb of the Year, kitchen gardening, herbal cooking, herbal and natural table decorations, goat cheese making and much more.

For registration fees and more information, visit <http://www.miherb.org/> or call Julie Kris at 231-386-7006, Karen Beekman at 517-349-1709 or Coleen French at 517-647-7814.

The Michigan Beekeepers Association Conference is Friday, March 12, and Saturday,

March 13. The conference keynote speaker is Dr. Dewey Caron, professor emeritus at the University of Delaware and author of the book *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping*. The break-out sessions are designed for all levels of beekeeping experience. Topics will include bee biology, starting with package bees, catching swarms, making beeswax candles, comb honey production, making and wintering nucs, wintering bees, harvesting honey, spring and summer hive management, diseases and pests, and honey plants. Most break-out sessions will be repeated so the participants can pick and choose to gather as much information as possible.

The preregistration cost of the conference is \$20, with additional family members for \$10. Mail registration to Judy Schmaltz, treasurer, Michigan Beekeepers' Association, 3119 Oak Hill Pl., Clarkston, MI 48348.

For more information, contact Roger Hoopingarner at 517-709-3514 or rahoojie@msu.edu.

The Michigan Horticultural Therapy Association (MHTA) will offer two programs. On March 12, Melanie Hammer, MSW, HTA, will present "Restoring Hope Through Horticultural Therapy." Break-out sessions will cover topics related to horticultural therapy practices. It also includes the 18th annual Seedy Character contest, displays, exhibits and door prizes. On March 13, Ms Hammer's subject is "Top Ten Activities for Every Season,". Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in activities that simulate having a mental or physical challenge while completing a horticulture therapy project.

For more information about registration fees or other information for either of the MHTA events, visit www.Michiganhta.org, or contact Cathy Flinton, at 517-332-1616, ext. 238.

The MSU Department of Horticulture invites all green thumbs to its program: "Spring

into Gardening” on March 13 at the MSU Eli Broad Business College Complex. This program will feature new ideas and practical tips for gardens. Keynote speakers Susan Belsinger and Tina Marie Wilcox will speak on kitchen gardens and offer tips on growing and eating fruits and vegetables fresh from the garden.

To register or learn more, visit <http://hrt.msu.edu/springgardenprogram/> or contact Sandy Allen at 517-355-5191, ext. 1339, or allens@msu.edu.

For a complete list of ANR Week programs, visit www.anrweek.canr.msu.edu or pick up a free ANR Week program guide from the county MSU Extension office.