

## Forum topic: wildflowers

**C**OLOR IT springtime. The Wildflower Association of Michigan will hold its annual Wildflower Conference and Exhibit in conjunction with the builders show.

The conference will be March 18-19 at Cobo Center. The wildflower exhibit, on display throughout the nine-day builders show, will consist of a wildflower garden and various other exhibits relating to native Michigan wildflowers.

General sessions will be each morning; the afternoon sessions will be split into two separate groups covering growers' issues and practitioners' issues.

While the focus is on wetlands, a variety of other topics also will be addressed throughout the conference.

The wildflower conference is open to all who have an interest in native Michigan wildflowers and would like more information about them. The registration fee of \$15 covers both days of the conference, but does not include admission to the builders show. Pre-registration is encouraged.

To attend the two-day conference, send a check or money order made payable to M.A.S.W.A.M. to: Wildflower Conference, 6011 West, St. Joseph, Suite 403, Lansing MI 48908-0527.

## Showstoppers

Builders show exhibits will include:

- **Smart House** — a futuristic four-room home whose appliances and utilities are on a computerized system that can be remotely controlled. It is sponsored by Detroit Edison.

- **Manufactured Housing** — three full-size model homes, including one of the first model homes from the 1940s.

- **Consumers Power** — an exhibit charting the progress of gas technology through the years.

- **Remodelers Council** — an exhibit showing current remodeling techniques.

- **Wildflower Association of Michigan** — the annual Wildflower Conference and Exhibition, including a wildflower garden featuring native Michigan wildflowers.

A VARIETY of contests and demonstrations will spice up the builders show. These events will focus on a variety of interests, including love, food and carpentry:

- **Bachelor/bachelorette competition** — sponsored by International Dating Service. One man and woman will be selected who best represent the typical Detroit-area single.

- **Couple of the year** — contestants will be judged for poise, personality and their overall

appearance. This contest is sponsored by Affiliated Models.

- **Cooking demonstrations** — featuring the culinary talents of local chefs. A different ethnic cuisine will be featured each evening.

- **Nail driving competition** — apprentices from the Detroit Carpentry Apprentice Training School will challenge patrons on their carpentry skills.

Show visitors will also have the opportunity to enter contests and drawings for prizes. Highlighted contests and drawings include:

- **Treasure Chest** — numbered entries are dropped off into respectively numbered treasure chests. Daily drawings will be held for prizes. One daily prize will include a wishing well built each day at the show by Detroit Carpentry apprentices.

- **House of Nails** — tests attendees' skills of approximation to estimate the correct number of nails in the plexiglass structure. Prize is \$20,000.

- **Exhibitor prizes** — various exhibitors will hold drawings for prizes. Prizes range from a houseful of new windows to a new car.

- **Radio stations** — participating stations will be staging giveaways during live remotes and on-air contests.

- **Flower auction** — springtime floral displays from Allied and FTD florists will be auctioned Sunday, March 24, with proceeds benefiting Muscular Sclerosis.

## Smart Houses bring Jetsons to life

*Continued from Page 7*

Instead of rolls of wires, the modular wiring systems are laid in the walls, Steele said. Systems can be attached at any point by plugging them in through a small cut in the wall.

And thanks to the microprocessors that control the system, the Smart House wiring system recognizes systems as they're plugged in. "A child could put a fork into a plug and not risk shock."

Steele estimated it will cost an additional \$7,500 to integrate the Smart House system into a 2,000-square-foot home.

The Smart House is the product of the Smart House Limited Partnership, a research and development consortium originated by the National Association of Home Builders National Research Center in 1985.

Detroit Edison is a member of the Smart House National Advisory Council and participates in generating public awareness of the Smart House System.

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