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CAMPERS attending the Camp Shiawassee YMCA Summer Youth Program planted two vegetable gardens June 4 with the guidance of the Shiawassee Conservation District, including a variety of vegetables such as tomatoes, carrots, peppers, broccoli and beans. The Conservation District will assist the campers in maintaining the gardens throughout the summer.

"It is important to understand where the food we eat each day comes from," said a Conservation District spokesperson. "We see a wide variety of products in our grocery store — but where do they originate? By being the primary caretakers of the gardens, campers will see firsthand how seeds mature into plants that produce the foods they eat.

"To compliment the gardens, the Conservation District will hold weekly sessions involving fun activities and games to educate campers on



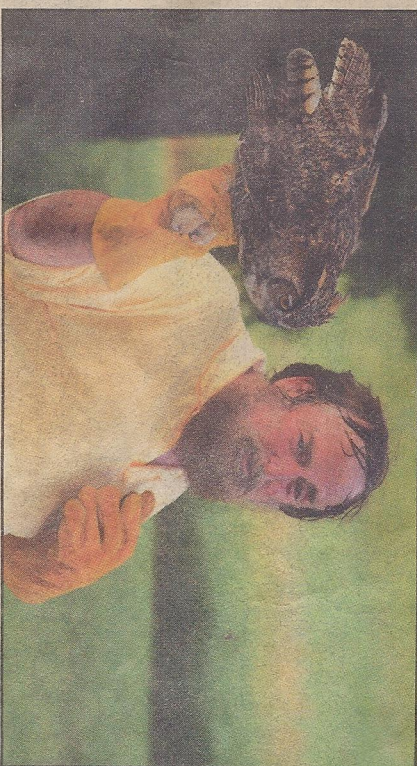
sustainable agriculture and conservation."

Materials from the National Association of Conservation Districts "Soil to Spoon" program will be utilized to help show the connection between soil and food. What is the connection to the soil we walk on each day and the food we eat? It is a focus of this educational program to teach the campers the answer to that question. By the end of the summer, the campers will know where their food comes from

before it is stocked on the grocery store shelves.

The camp gardens and sustainable agriculture education program is made possible through a grant awarded to the Conservation District from USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program. Persons may visit the Conservation District on Facebook or on their website at www.shiawasseed.org to follow the progress of the gardens through harvest.

(Courtesy Photo)



ANIMAL Rehabilitator Joe Rogers will be bringing Michigan's Birds of Prey to the DeVries Nature Conservancy, 2635 N. M-52, Owosso on Thursday, June 20, so persons can experience these majestic birds up close and personal. Signs will direct guests to parking near the visitor center.

A wildlife biologist, Rogers, known throughout Michigan as The Bird Man, will have some of his collection of 20 live, un-releasable birds for an evening of learning, viewing and appreciation. Families with younger children are encouraged to attend

the 6 p.m. session. The 7:30 p.m. session will be better suited to an older audience.

Admission is free, but a \$2 donation per person is suggested. Participants are asked to take along their own seating. The program is held on the grounds, and in the case of rain will be moved into the barn.

For more information, persons may contact DNC, (989) 723-3365, or email info@devriesnc.org. For more information about DNC's programs, persons may visit the website, www.devriesnature.org.

(Courtesy Photo)