

# Bangor Farm teaches importance of bees

Bees, Pleeze!  
educational  
wildflower patch  
to open in June

By KIM INGALLS  
For the Tribune

BANGOR — Moss Funnel Farms co-owners Joe and Frank Corrado are buzzing about their newest project - a wildflower field that will teach people about the important role bees play in the production of small fruit, such as blueberries.

With the help of a \$7,500 grant from North Central Region - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (NCR-SARE), the father and son team are turning a portion of their blueberry farm into an educational wildflower patch called Bees, Pleeze!

"We have two acres near the back end of our blueberry field on 34th and 62nd streets that we are turning into a demonstration project for kids," Frank explained. "It will feature a figure-eight path and a building where kids can look at large posters explaining the relationship between bees and blueberries."

Purchased by the Corrados in 2008, Moss Funnel Farms began with a field of 60-year-old Jersey blueberries. In 2010, the farm was converted to organic practices with the berries being sold at farmers markets and to the public.

The grant for Bees, Pleeze! was awarded as part of NCR-SARE's Farmer Rancher Grant Program, a competitive grant program for farmers and ranchers who want to explore sustainable solutions to problems through on-farm research, demonstration, and education projects.

"We propose to devel-



Contributed photo  
Moss Funnel Farms owner Joe Corrado is shown last year seeding the wildflower area of his farm for the new "Bees, Pleeze" education project the farm will offer this year.

op and build a pollinator trail in a wildflower field at our blueberry farm to educate local residents and seasonal visitors to southwest Michigan in

an entertaining way about the beneficial impacts of pollinators on small fruit - specifically blueberries." Frank said. "Hopefully, con-

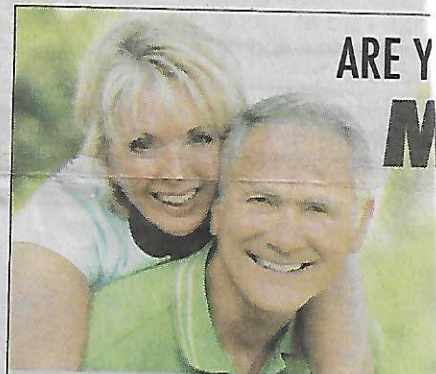
struction will be completed by June so the trail can be open."

If Bees, Pleeze! isn't completed by June, it will definitely be open by the start of blueberry season, he added. Just before the start of school in the fall, the farm will host a field day for teachers to offer instructions about the nature area so that classes can visit in the future.

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