

GMNF Native Plant Program

FY08 Accomplishments

Three native plant projects were begun this year: 1) removing non-native plants from an existing wildflower garden; 2) establishing an northern hardwood garden; and 3) developing an ongoing supply of seeds of native species with local genotypes.

A large wildflower patch was established at the Rochester Ranger District several years ago. Many visitors have commented on the beautiful wildflowers and the number of bees visiting the garden. This year we began removing non-native plants, with the goal of eventually having a native species, with educational signs.

Adjacent to this, a new garden was begun this year to display native plants of northern hardwood forests. This was prepared, several species were planted, and a shade structure was erected to protect the plants until it is established by newly planted trees.

In addition, the GMNF initiated formation of the Northeast Native Seed Initiative, a group of about 15 organizations from NY, VT, NH, and ME who are interested in developing an ongoing supply of seeds of native species of local genotypes. A species list was developed and preliminary plans for collecting and multiplying seeds have been discussed.



Indian cucumber root (Medeola virginiana) is one of several species planted into the new northern hardwood garden. (Photo by Gudrun Keszocze, SCA intern with the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest)



Garden lupine (Lupinus polyphyllus) is a non-native species that, while beautiful, is being removed from the wildflower garden. (Photo by Gudrun Keszocze, SCA intern with the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest)

Year of Award: 2008

Project completion: Ongoing

Report number: 1

Expenditures:

- FY08 funding: \$12,000 (minus \$2400 lost to fire transfers = \$9600)
- Expend: equipment - \$2215
GMNF staff - \$7385

Partners/Contractors/Coop:
Master Gardeners Program

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