

Aldo Leopold Native Pollinator Project

FY-08 Accomplishments

The 2008 Pollinator project funds enabled the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center to establish pollinator rain gardens to show people what they can do with native plants and excess rain water. The pollinator rain gardens are located at the Aldo Leopold Land Stewardship Trailhead and serve as a model to help area landowners and visitors with the skills and comfort level they need to enhance their own backyard or property. Additionally, the rain gardens capture contaminated run-off from the Visitor Center parking lot and demonstrate how native vegetation can be attractive yet functional.

A self-guided garden tour and botanical markers provide natural history information and serve visitors throughout the year when program staff are not available. Furthermore, a native garden packet serves as a take home piece to offer landowners planning guidelines and suggestions to establish native pollinator and rain gardens in their own backyards. The Center staff offer native garden tours each summer and additionally use the gardens as part of our 5-6th grade habitat rehab hands-on experiential education programming. The pollinator gardens also provide an excellent viewing opportunity with 151,000 visitors to the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center.

Native growers supplied plant stock germinated from local genotype seed, well-adapted to the Lake Superior clayplain. Featured species include: swamp milkweed, butterflyweed, calico aster, pearly everlasting, purple-stemmed aster, flat top aster, white turtlehead, Joe pyeweed, boneset, sneezeweed, St. John's wort, northern blue flag iris, monkeyflower, wild golden-glow, purple meadow rue, blue vervain, rattlesnake manna grass, soft rush, wool grass, fringed sedge, blue joint grass and fox sedge.

Aldo Leopold Land Stewardship Trail pollinator rain gardens in bloom.



Additional fabric matting, black dirt, and mulch are stockpiled for expansion in subsequent years with the assistance of local volunteers, YCC and area middle school students. Northland College students will assist with seed collection and processing.



National Park Volunteers Lori and Marv Clark (left) and Certified Master Gardener Maureen Dodge (right) assist with pollinator rain garden maintenance.

Year Awarded: 2008

Project Completion: 2008

Report Number: 1

Expenditures:

- FY08 funding: \$4,000 for black dirt, fabric matting, mulch, plant materials and Name Stake botanical markers
- Remaining: \$0

Partners/Contractors/Coop: Youth Conservation Corps (YCC); U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Northland College and Wildflower Woods

Contact Person & phone number:
Susan B. Nelson (715) 685-9983



**Chequamegon-Nicolet
National Forest**

Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center
29270 County Highway G
Ashland, WI 54806