

Native Plant Program – Planting for Pollinators

FY08 Accomplishments

The Wayne National Forest Native Plant Program activities in FY2008 focused on planting new, and enhancing existing, Native Plant - Pollinator Gardens at three administrative offices: Ironton District, Marietta unit and Athens District/Supervisor's office. Work included removing non-native invasive plant species such as fescue and multiflora rose and replacing with native plants to: 1) provide habitat for native pollinators, and 2) produce increased amounts of native seed for future garden and restoration projects. Over 2,500 square feet of new gardens were added to existing gardens. Signs on "Landscaping with Native Plants", "The Importance of Pollinators" and individual plant signs were placed along 2 new visitor trails constructed at the Ironton and Athens offices.

Plants for the gardens were either: 1) produced from seed collected from the Forest, or 2) saved from the future site of a highway corridor to go through Wayne NF. Seeds were cold stratified in trays during the winter months. Thousands of seedlings were transplanted by volunteers, kids and parents to plug trays so plants could develop deep roots and tall shoots. Trays were kept on a constructed growing platform with 500 square feet of shelving space; the platform has a slated roof so plants are shaded and did not dry out too quickly. The plugs were later planted into new garden sites. Plant saves were coordinated with volunteer groups to transplant plants from the highway corridor to their new homes.

Future plans are to continue to increase the Native Plant – Pollinator Gardens, extend the interpretative trails, add more signage and create seed orchard gardens.



Accessible trail through prairie, Athens/SO office garden



Hover fly and Soldier beetle on Rattlesnake master, Athens/SO office garden



Monarch Habitat sign with Ratibida, Marietta office garden



District Botanist, Chad Kirschbaum teaching Rock Hill high school science club students about native plants and pollinator conservation (center). Student weeding (upper right) and seed collecting (lower right) at Ironton District garden

Year Awarded: FY2008

Project completion (year): FY2008

Report number: (1 of 1)

Expenditures:

- FY08 funding: \$26,000
- Expenditures: \$25,073

Partners/Contractors/Coop:

Athens/Franklin County Master Gardeners, Barn Busters and Copperheads 4-H clubs, Hocking County Master Naturalists, Rock Hill High School Science Club, Rural Action, Summit Prison Crew.

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