

Native Plant Program – Banking on the Future

FY08 Accomplishments

The Allegheny National Forest Native Plant Program activities in FY2008 focused on planting new and enhancing existing Native Plant - Pollinator Gardens at the Spiridon building (former Supervisors Office), Buckaloons Recreation Area and Camp Birdsall Edey (Girl Scout Camp). Work included removing turf grasses and non-native invasive plant species such as periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) and winter creeper (*Euonymus fortunei*) and replacing them with native plants that provide habitat for our native pollinators whose numbers have dramatically declined in recent years. Currently the Spiridon Garden has been certified as a Backyard Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation www.nwf.org/backyard/. The temporary educational signs that were installed were well received and appreciated by passers-by. Unfortunately, we were unable to complete development and printing of permanent signs and brochures and posting info to the web for gardens in FY08. Work was conducted by Youth Conservation Corps, Student Conservation Association, interns from Penn State University, Staff and Volunteers.

Seed mixes were purchased for the Marienville District Office to enhance the existing native plantings. Also a \$1,000 grant was received from the Garden Federation of PA for planting materials and signs for the Marienville District Office for completion in FY09.

Work also continued with the Warren County Garden club on their Native Woodland Garden in downtown Warren. The seasonal that was hired with NFN3 funds provided guidance and demonstrations to club members on native plants and pollinators and what activities they could do to enhance their garden.



Monarch Migration Sign at Spiridon Garden, Warren, PA



*Warren Times Observer photo by Lauren Vokish
Weed pullers Suzie Oliphant, left, Alan Hillyard of the U.S. Forest Service, Dorothy Havoza and Tom Oliphant volunteer their time on Saturday September 27 at the Buckaloons pulling weeds and planting new native plants for part of National Public Lands Day. Not in the picture volunteer Kathy Wiedmaier and F.S. Employee April Moore.*

Year Awarded: FY2008

Project completion (year): FY2009, Unfortunately, we were unable to complete development and printing of permanent signs and brochures for gardens in FY08.

Report number: (3 of 4)

Expenditures:

- FY08 funding: \$28,000
- Expend: \$28,000

Partners/Contractors/Coop: Warren County Garden Club, YCC, SCA, Interns, and Volunteers.

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