

# Old Farm Field Restoration – Grand Island NRA Hiawatha National Forest

## FY 2009 Accomplishments

During the summer of 2009 Hiawatha National Forest west unit botany staff of Dan McConnell, Luke Langstaff & Deb Le Blanc along with YCC, Michigan Works and many volunteers successfully transplanted more than 13,000 wildflower plugs into the administrative restoration site on Grand Island National Recreation Area.

In 2009 approximately 1.5 acres was treated with herbicide, 1 acre was mowed in order to reduce spotted knapweed seed spread into planned planting areas and ½ acre had NNIP hand pulled. Because non-native invasive plants are well established on the site a more aggressive approach for weed removal and control was taken in 2009.

After treating NNIP the area was prepared for seeding by using a UTV with a disc/packer. Approximately 1/2acre adjacent to last years planting was laid out with trails between each planned clumps of native wildflowers. In 2009, over 13,000 native wildflower plugs were planted into these areas. All plants were raised at the HNF greenhouse located in Marquette, Michigan. Thousands of plugs were planted as part of the Life of Lake Superior's Grand Island monarch education experience. Again this year youth volunteers from Alger Parks and Recreation Day Kamp help transplant nearly 2,000 wildflower plugs as part of their educational field day on the Island. Final plantings were accomplished by YCC, Grand Island Association members and Moosewood Nature Center along with help from Michigan Works stimulus crew assigned to the HNF greenhouse. In addition to the transplanting that occurred solar panels purchased with NFN funds were installed along with a 135 gallon rain barrel and a secondary 35 gallon overflow barrel which as of August 2009 had collected more than 250 gallons of water. With the use of solar energy volunteers are now able to apply water to new seedlings and areas seeded. Also completed with NFN funds were interpretive pathways lined with wood chips from Island white pine, four handmade pine benches were made, two interpretive signs installed and all ferry service. Also all Island land transportation for this project was funded through the USFS Northern Research station out of Burlington, VT.

This year also marked the first establishment of monarchs at the site, which highlight the benefits of native plant restoration.



Interpretive panels at "Duffy Homestead" site; with flowering plants just one year after first native plant introduction. Lower photo is site from the air, July 2009; note Coreopsis in full bloom.

### Project Awarded: \$25,000

Greenhouse mgmt contracts: \$5500

Native seed purchase: \$2000

Water tanks, solar system, soil and trays: \$1,800

Equipment in support of native plant materials: \$11,400

Ferry Transportation: \$2800

HNF Summer botanist for project: \$1500

### Partners:

USFS Northern Research Station

MSU Extension – Life of Lake Superior

Grand Island Association

The Nature Conservancy

Moosewood Nature Center

Alger Parks and Rec Day Kamp

HNF Native Plant Program volunteers

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