

Developing and Enhancing Native Plant and Pollinator Gardens on the Ottawa National Forest

2010 Accomplishments

The Ottawa Botany Program established a rain/wetland garden to treat runoff from a new administrative site, helping the facility to achieve high LEED status. In 2009, seeds were collected on-Forest and delivered to a grower to raise seedlings. In 2010, the basin was cleared and shaped, and over 2000 seedlings were planted. Fifteen wildflower and nine graminoid species were included. The seedlings established well, and monarch butterfly caterpillars found their food plant--swamp milkweed--within two months of planting. Stepping stones to a viewing point were added. An interpretive sign was designed, produced, and installed. An evening rain garden program was presented. The garden was included in ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the new office.

Additional work in 2010 included weeding, planting and enhancements at upland native plant /pollinator gardens at Kenton and Ontonagon Ranger Districts, Forest Visitor Center, and Bergland Cultural Center. A kiosk was built to hold native plant and pollinator materials for distribution for the Bergland garden. Native gardens were featured in a poster displayed at a county-wide senior citizen picnic. Volunteer Waltraud Brinkmann from Friends of Sylvania Wilderness started a native plant garden in a neglected planter at the wilderness day use area.

Seeds were collected from selected herbs, to build a cache for Forest revegetation projects and for use in seed production at J.W. Toumey Nursery. Over 13 pounds of fringed sedge (*Carex crinita*) and three pounds of tiny green bulrush (*Scirpus atrovirens*) seed were collected. Smooth oxeye (*Heliopsis helianthoides*) and wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) seeds were also collected.



Figure 1. New rain garden and interpretive sign.



Figure 2. New garden at Clark Lake day use area. Inset shows bee enjoying late blooming sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*) at this garden.

Year Awarded: 2008, additional funds awarded in 2009 and 2010.

Project completion: 2010 for establishment; garden maintenance and enhancement will continue indefinitely.

Report number: 3 of 3.

Expenditures: \$26,000 expended in 2010 for this project.

Partners/Contractors/Cooperators: Friends of Bergland; Friends of Sylvania Wilderness; J.W. Toumey Nursery; Wildflower Woods (WI); Master Gardener M. Thomann; Pannier Graphics (PA).

Contact: Sue Trull, Botanist, 906-932-1330 ext. 312.



Figure 3. Collecting native seed.



Figure 4. New information kiosk at Bergland garden.



Ottawa National Forest
E6248 US Highway 2
Ironwood, MI 49938