

Rapid River Pollinator Garden Hiawatha National Forest FY 2008 Accomplishments

FY08 Native Plant Funding awarded to the Hiawatha National Forest was distributed to 2 native plant projects: Grand Island-NRA old farm field restoration and Rapid River RD garden expansion for pollinators. Funding was used primarily for contracts awarded for seed collection, greenhouse management, planting and maintenance.

The Rapid River pollinator garden expansion doubled the size of the existing native plant garden. Contractor and Northern Michigan University senior Dan McConnell not only supervised the volunteers helping him with this project but also-- designed the expansion, selected the species for the site, cared for them at the Forest greenhouse, cut all the landscape timbers, prepared the site by removing the existing sod cap (which he recovered and saved by rolling in burlap so it can be used to replace sod impacted by snow plowing), and transplanted seedlings. Species he selected were native species of plants occurring in the adjacent Whitefish Delta LTA and existing monarch butterfly openings within that LTA. Spring of 2009, Dan will transplant additional pollinator plant species from Borealis Seed Company, our contractor for all the seed used for this project and on Grand Island-NRA.



Contractor Dan McConnell

Project Awarded: \$5,500

Contracts awarded for design & planting: \$2,500
Seed Purchase: \$2,500
Brochures: \$500

Partners:

MSU Extension – Master Gardeners
HNF Native Plant Program volunteers

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Volunteers Linda Thomasma
Kirk and Kyle
Piehler helping Dan



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