

Native Plant and Pollinator Gardens Wayne National Forest



MONARCH
JOINT VENTURE

2011 Accomplishments

The Native Plant and Pollinator Gardens project was initiated in 2008 on the Wayne National Forest to: obtain local native plant materials to create native plant and pollinator beds at administrative offices, provide trails and interpretation about the importance of native plants and pollinators, and create native plant seed production areas for future restoration. All three of the administrative offices have native plant/pollinator gardens, and two of the offices have interpretive trails and shade houses for seedling production.

FY 2011 funds were used to maintain existing native plant gardens for continued pollinator use, public education and landscaping around at the three administrative offices. Maintenance activities included mowing and weed-eating around native garden plantings, weed removal within the garden beds, removal of invasive species (Canada thistle) and transplanting plugs of native species (*Liatris*, *Asclepias*) into the newly weeded areas. Hocking College students put in 72 volunteer hours weeding and transplanting at the Athens district gardens as part of a practicum for their plant class. Other maintenance included replacement and re-enforcement of interpretive signs and holders along the interpretive trail at the Ironton district office.

In addition, FY11 earmark funds were used to prepare 10 acres of reclaimed mineland for native plantings on the Athens district. This involved mowing the existing non-native vegetation (fescue, lespedeza) and then letting it grow back to then be sprayed with herbicide in October. Wildlife funds will then be leveraged in November and March (FY12) to rent a no-till Truax drill to plant warm season grass and prairie forb seeds. Fall and spring plantings will be monitored over-time to determine what species respond best to the different planting times. This data will be used to help determine what methods will be used in upcoming wildlife restoration projects that target converting reclaimed minelands to more biologically diverse plantings of native species for wildlife habitat and foraging. Prescribed burning will also be incorporated for conversion and maintenance; then monitored for adaptive management of these converted openland habitats.



Figure 1. Weeding native plant and pollinator garden.

Figure 2. Replacing signs along interpretive trail.

Year Project Initiated: FY2008

Project completion: FY2011

Report number: 1 of 1 (2011)

Expenditures (through 10/2011):

▪FY08 funding \$26,502

▪FY09 funding \$30,000

▪FY10 funding \$25,000

▪FY11 funding \$16,000

Total Funding: \$97,502

FY11 funding (Partners/Contractors/Cooperators):

Hocking College, Northwind Engineering, Athens County Soil and Water District, Shad Salyers, Christina Vaughn, Jennifer Elkins, Travis Kling, Zac Allen, Nick Galentin, Allen Patton, Jaclyn Haynal, Benjamin Reed and Jessica Masters.

Contact Persons:

Cheryl Coon, Forest Botanist 740-753-0558 and

Aurora Roemmich, Ironton District Botanist 740-534-6535



Wayne National Forest

13700 U.S. Hwy 33

Nelsonville, OH 45701