

Bee-Friend Native Bees – Display Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

2011 Accomplishments

A beautiful and artistic display of Wisconsin bees is now part of the educational material of the Chequamegon-Nicolet. We took advantage of some gorgeous photos shot during the first-ever bee inventory on a national forest.

Dorothy Semple, a local artist who has worked in several capacities for the Forest, was contracted to create a display utilizing these photos. Not only did she design the board and decide how to mount the information, she had to glean the most notable results from the inventory to highlight and print up readable text blocks,

The story starts three years ago when Dr Amy Wolf from the University of Wisconsin Green Bay realized that entomologists knew little about the breadth of Wisconsin bee fauna despite bees' ecological importance. The Chequamegon-Nicolet assisted Dr Wolf in a comprehensive review of bee diversity in northern Wisconsin. Some of the photos she and her assistants took while doing field work were too beautiful to just file away.



Figure 1. One of the photos by Amy Wolf of a *Bombus* species on a blazing star taken during the first-ever National Forest Bee Inventory



Figure 2. Artist Dorothy Semple puts the finishing touches on her display celebrating native bees and the photos taken for the bee inventory on the Chequamegon-Nicolet

The idea was to create a display for inter-forest use and public education. This colorful, free-standing exhibit highlights pertinent facts and photos from Dr. Wolf's survey plus other basic information from the USDA publications on the Pollinator Partnership.

It is our hope that this portable exhibit will be a fitting complement to other Forest Service projects promoting public awareness of native bees and their ecological and economic importance.

Year Awarded: 2011

Project completion: 2011

Report number: 1

Expenditures: FY11 total funding \$2,000 NFN3

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**Chequamegon-Nicolet
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