

# Pollinator Garden Project on the Chippewa National Forest

## 2009 Accomplishments

The summer of 2009 marked the first growing season for our new pollinator garden. The garden consists of a formal mulched garden with grouped specimen flower including liatris, milkweed, native grasses, prairie smoke, blue vervain, black eyed susans, blue hyssop, spiderwort, and cardinal flower surrounding the Blackduck Ranger District Office. There were also two separate areas that were seeded in the fall of 2008 to prairie grasses and flowers. These areas have some flowers that are starting to grow but this year it looks more like a patch of weeds instead of a prairie. We have mowed the areas once to control the weed species and plan to do the same next year. We are going to be patient and monitor the areas to see if the grasses and other forbs will take hold.

We had our YCC crew busy weeding the garden throughout the summer and this fall we added more mulch and did a fall weeding with our new Rabideau Conservation Corps Crew.

The most exciting part of the garden project was acquiring 3 interpretive signs for the garden. We borrowed the graphic art from a Michigan Forest and created one new sign to interpret our new bee hive. We worked with a local bee farmer to bring a hive to the office. We got to sample the honey in August and want to continue to have a hive at the office.



Figure 2. YCC Crew and District Staff Planting Garden

Year Awarded: initial award in 2008

Project completion: 2009

Report number: 1

Expenditures (through 10/2009):  
FY09 funding \$5,500 expend. \$5,500  
▪**Total funding \$5,500, total expend \$5,500;**

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Figure 1. Rabideau Conservation Corps Finished Weeding



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