

Native Plant Gardens on the Green Mountain National Forest

2009 Accomplishments

Three native plant projects begun in previous years were continued this year: 1) removing non-native plants from an existing wildflower garden; 2) establishing a northern hardwoods garden; and 3) developing an ongoing supply of seeds of native species with local genotypes.

Many visitors have commented on the beautiful wildflowers and the number of bees visiting the large wildflower patch established at the Rochester Ranger District several years ago. This year we continued removing non-native plants, with the goal of eventually having all native species, with educational signs, which are currently in progress.

The northern hardwoods garden begun last year was moved to a more protected location this spring. An overgrown fern border was thinned to display clumps of native ferns, between which native wildflowers of northern hardwoods were planted. Additional plots were established, many new species were planted, and educational signs are being developed.

The Northeast Native Seed Initiative, formed in 2008 to develop an ongoing supply of seeds of native species of local genotypes, continued to move forward. In 2009 the species list was refined, fact sheets were developed, and a contractor was hired to organize the volunteer seed collection effort. Part of the outreach included development of a website:

<http://nenativeseeds.googlepages.com/home>



Figure 1. An old fern border and new plots were prepared for planting with several species of northern hardwoods (photo by Marllys Eddy).



Figure 2. Virginia waterleaf is one of many native plants of northern hardwoods that was planted in the new gardens at the Rochester District Office of the GMNF (photo by Melissa Green.)

Year Awarded: 2009

Project completion: Ongoing

Report number: 1

Expenditures (through 9/30/2009):

- Salary: \$11,887.46
- Supplies & Educational Signs: \$2,745.24
- Contract: \$2,710.00

Partners: VT Youth Conservation Corps

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