

# Androscoggin Ranger Station Native Plant Pollinator Garden on the White Mountain National Forest

## 2009 Accomplishments

The Androscoggin Ranger Station is situated on Route 16 in Gorham, NH at the foot of the Mount Washington and the Presidential Range of the White Mountains. It's proximity to one of the main attractions in the White Mountain National Forest make it a highly visited location. The Native Plant Pollinator Garden Project at this location involved the rehabilitation and renovation of an existing garden with the use of locally native species. The resulting garden is divided into three distinct zones: a meadow garden, woodland garden and the shrub/wildlife garden. The building was constructed in the mid-1990's and the original landscape consisted of mostly non-native landscaping plants. In subsequent years, district staff added additional plantings of both native and non-native herbaceous plants.



In 2009, botany program and district staff utilizing the exiting framework of native plant species removed non-native plants and planted over 250 plugs and pots of native grasses, sedges, herbs, and shrubs. Some native wildflowers that had spread since the original installation were relocated to an adjacent unmowed area to create the meadow native plant pollinator garden. The central gardens at the entrance of the Ranger Station focus on native shrubs and wildlife plantings as well as native grasses, shrubs and wildflowers and a small woodland native plant pollinator garden was created adjacent to the ranger station entrance.

Large interpretive (24" by 30") panels on woodland wildflowers and pollinators and meadow plants and pollinators have been installed. Individual plant labels containing the common and scientific name, common pollinators, and native range have been installed to inform visitors of the species being used. Two additional temporary signs inform visitors of the conversion of the gardens to native species. Approximately 75% of the garden area has been converted to locally native species. The work in 2009 also achieved another goal: to create a low maintenance landscape utilizing a limited number of shrub and spreading species. This will result in simplified maintenance and watering requirements for District staff.

Year Awarded: 2009

Project completion: 2009

Report number: 2 of 3

Expenditures:

- FY 2009 total funding - \$29,000
- FY 2009 Androscoggin Garden funding – \$8200.41
- Site Prep/Staff - \$2898.00
- Materials – \$5302.41
- Interpretation – 2008 purchase

Contractors, Partners, Cooperators

- Clements Nursery
- Van Berkum Nurseries
- New England Wild Flower Society

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