

# Native Plant Pollinator Garden for the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center

## 2010 Accomplishments

This project was initiated in 2008 to create a native plant pollinator garden at the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center. The nature center hosts close to 30,000 visitors annually. The garden was planted in a central area of the nature center grounds, which can be viewed from the inside and outside of the building, including an accessible picnic area. Visitors have enjoyed the many butterflies, bees and birds which visit the garden and nearby bird feeders since planting in 2008. With the garden established, the focus in 2009 was on maintenance of the garden and interpretation.



Figure 1. Monarch butterfly enjoying bergamot planted for its use.

In 2010, two non-native bushes were removed around the building and replaced with two sections of gardens. Native wildflowers, such as wild bergamot, rough blazing star and garden phlox, were among the species planted there. There is also space in one of these gardens to serve as a transplant bed in the future.



Figure 2. YCC crew member Stephanie Tharp assists in planting.

Two additional interpretive signs were printed and installed in these new sections. The existing garden was enhanced by the addition of a split rail fence, which helps support the growing plants. The fence was made from salvaged materials from a previous campground project. This project lowered our carbon footprint by saving us time, money and gasoline. A brochure was also developed which helps interpret the garden area.

Many monarch caterpillars have been monitored by the nature center staff and spotted by observant visitors.

Future opportunities in 2011 include gathering of native seed, both to grow in our own beds, and to collaborate with local nurseries to grow plants from these seeds.



Figure 3. Reused fencing proved to be a green and cost-effective way to support our growing wildflower garden.

Year Awarded: initial award in 2008

Project completion: Ongoing

Report number: 3 of 3

Expenditures (through 10/2010):  
FY08 funding \$5,759.73, expend. \$5,759.73; \$0 remaining  
FY09 funding \$2,834.20, expend. \$2,834.20; \$0 remaining  
FY10 funding \$1,880.00, expend. \$1,859.00, \$21 remaining.

**Total funding \$10,474, total expend. \$10,453;  
•\$21 total remaining**

Partner: Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Contact Person & phone number:  
Diana L. Stull 304-653-4826



**Monongahela National Forest**  
Gauley Ranger District  
**Cranberry Mountain Nature Center**  
932 North Fork Cherry Rd.  
Richwood, WV 26261