

Native Plant Materials Program on the Ottawa National Forest

2011 Accomplishments

The Ottawa Botany Program continued maintenance and enhancement at five native plant/pollinator gardens and one wetland garden. Gardens were weeded and new species added, and some mason bee houses were installed.

Nectar-providing native plants for butterflies were produced, using seed collected on the forest and raised to seedlings at JW Toumey Nursery. Species were selected which thrive in open disturbed areas as well as provide for pollinator needs: evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*), black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) and common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*). About 900 mixed seedlings were planted by Forest Service staff and volunteers in a meadow alongside Lake Superior at a recreation area. Seedlings also were planted at a recently vacated administrative site and in two small, office-front locations.

Intermittent workers and a contractor collected seeds, to build a cache for Forest revegetation projects and for use in seed production at JW Toumey Nursery. Employees collected 18.2 pounds of green bulrush (*Scirpus atrovirens*) and 13.3 pounds of fringed sedge (*Carex crinita*). The contractor focused on the graminoids big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), fringed sedge, poverty oats (*Danthonia spicata*), fowl mannagrass (*Glyceria striata*), bottlebrush grass (*Elymus hystrix*), and green bulrush; and the forbs common milkweed, swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), false sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*), wild bergamot, and evening primrose.

Two 2500 square-foot areas were prepared for future seed production sites. The areas were plowed and covered with black plastic over the summer to kill existing vegetation. They will be seeded with local native seed in late October 2011. Species to be planted include black-eyed susan, evening primrose, false sunflower, wild bergamot and sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*).



Figure 1.
Collected
sneezeweed
seed

Also in 2011, at a tribal youth camp, Forest Service staff led kids in making seed balls with local native seed for distribution in northern Michigan and Wisconsin.



Figure 3.
Black-eyed
susan ready to
plant

Figure 2. Planting seedlings in meadow, Black River Harbor, Lake Superior

Year Awarded: 2008, additional funds awarded in 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Project completion: ongoing.

Report number: 4.

Expenditures: \$23,000 in 2011.

Partners/Contractors/Cooperators: Friends of Bergland; Friends of Sylvania Wilderness; JW Toumey Nursery; Contractors M. Mason, B. Peacock, C. Germaine, A. Ellsworth

Contact: Sue Trull, Botanist, 906-932-1330 ext. 312.



Figure 4. Area prepared for seeding



Ottawa National Forest
E6248 US Highway 2
Ironwood, MI 49938