

Native Plant Pollinator Garden for the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center

2011 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. In 2010 emphasis was on replacing non-native bushes with two new sections of native plant gardens. Two additional interpretive signs were placed in these new gardens. A split rail fence was also installed to support the bustling plants and enhance the natural look of the garden. A pollinator brochure was designed which explains the purpose of the garden.

In 2011, Americorps member Vince Weeks proposed adding a hoop house to the nature center grounds. This greenhouse was installed in the summer of 2011 and will be used to start our own milkweed seedlings. Americorps members Ashley Blazina and Cynthia Everitt gathered native milkweed seeds in the district. Cynthia is continuing into 2012 with the Americorps program and will enlist other Americorps in helping her grow plants to transplant into the gardens at the nature center and other locations on the district. The hoop house is located along the walkway through the pollinator gardens and will be open to the public to view. Interpretive signs have been ordered and will be installed soon.



Figure 1. YCC crew assists staff member Buzz Hypes with hoop house construction.



Figure 2. Syphid fly perched atop wild yellow indigo.

Year Awarded: initial award in 2008

Project completion: Ongoing

Report number: 4 of 4

Expenditures (through 10/2011):

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.

FY11 funding \$1,000, expend \$995.41, \$4.59 remaining.

Total funding \$11,473.93, total expend. \$11,448.34
•\$25.59 total remaining

Partner: Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Americorps.

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