

Lincoln Woods Native Plant Pollinator Garden on the White Mountain National Forest

2011 Accomplishments

The entrance port to the Pemigewasset Wilderness on the Pemigewasset Ranger District of the White Mountain National Forest is known as Lincoln Woods. This site, located on the Kancamagus National Scenic Byway, is a heavily used year round facility. At the welcome cabin there is no water or wired electricity. All power is supplied by a solar panel and any water must be carried in by hand. For nearly five years, the district has struggled to get plants established in the small garden area in front of this facility. Water has consistently been a challenge.

In 2011, a gutter and rain barrel system were installed to provide a periodic source of irrigation water for the garden beds and a variety of native herbs and shrubs adapted to drier sites were installed. The rain barrel system collects water from the roof of the facility. The resulting plantings have transformed the garden areas from barren weedy patches with some spring daffodil bulbs into an attractive native plant garden highlighting some of the native species visitors are likely to encounter while hiking in the Pemigewasset Wilderness Area.

Over 150 plugs, pots, and balls were installed constituting 20 different species including low-bush blueberry, meadowsweet, Pennsylvania sedge, maple leaved viburnum, flat-topped aster, grass-leaved goldenrod, and New England aster. The planting of these species should keep the local pollinator population content for years to come. The presence of the rain barrel watering system relieves the pressure on the handful of volunteers who staff this facility on a year-round basis. Two of the volunteers provided some of the naturalistic landscaping material in the form of a perfectly rotted stump from their back yard. The presence of this stump and several other rotted logs and rocks give the garden a natural feel and appearance.

The changes were immediately noticed by frequent visitors and newcomers alike. Many were impressed with how rapidly the change occurred while others were intrigued with the species planted or the specifics of how the rain barrels worked.



Lincoln Woods with its new rain barrel irrigation system and gardens.

Lincoln Woods Forest Service volunteer talking to visitors about the gardens and giving out information on local hikes.



Year Awarded: 2011
Project completion: 2011
Report number: 2 of 2

Expenditures:
FY 2011 total funding - \$31,000.00
FY 2011 Lincoln Woods Garden – \$13,410.00
Site Prep/Staff - \$3,626.00
Materials – \$9,784.00

Contractors, Partners, Cooperators:
Clements Nursery
Himmer Construction

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White Mountain National Forest Native Plant Pollinator Gardens at the Administrative Complex

2011 Accomplishments

Since 2009, the White Mountain National Forest has been striving to develop the landscape at its new Supervisor's Office/Pemigewasset Ranger District facility utilizing native plant materials. The overall intention is to develop the entire site as a complex of native plant pollinator gardens. Progress is slow, but steady. In 2009, a wetland native plant pollinator garden was installed in a storm water detention wetland, in 2010 a native shrub thicket garden and entrance gardens were installed not only to serve the local pollinator population, but to serve as a teaching opportunity about native plant landscaping and for the enjoyment of the visitors to this facility. A wildflower meadow and seed production area was also conceived and a local provenance seed mix sown on the site of the facilities leach field in 2009. Despite the application of 6-8 inches of loam to the site, it remains a droughty area and has proved challenging for seeds to germinate. The year 2010 passed with little sign of successful seed germination.

In 2011, the focus was to acquire local provenance plugs of native species and use these to augment the previously sown seed mix. To this end 5,100 plugs of native asters, goldenrods, milkweeds, and a handful of various other species were acquired from a local nursery. Due to the late arrival of this stock they are still being planted in the meadow area and other sites around the White Mountain headquarters facility. However, much to our delight thousands of small seedlings and many first year plants resulting from the seed mix sown in 2009 were found to be happily colonizing the meadow area. Additional shrubs and potted native plants were also acquired to augment the entrance gardens and the shrub thicket area.

Some of the funding was also used to support a portion of a seasonal botanist time to collect seeds of a large variety of native species occurring on the White Mountain National Forest. This year the focus was on collecting a small amount of a large variety of species, to this end seeds were collected from 78 species of shrubs, forbs and graminoids. Shrub seeds were directly sown in flats while other seeds were cleaned, dried, and will be stored for future sowing in a seed production meadow.

Pollinators on New England aster (Symphyotrichum novae-angliae)



Rough-stemmed goldenrod (Solidago rugosa) with pollinator.



Wildflower seed production meadow on leach field of the WMNF Administrative Complex.



A small portion of the native plant seed collected on the WMNF drying in the office.

Project awarded 2011

Report number: 1 of 2
Project expenditures
FY 2011 funding: \$31,000.00
FY2011 WMAC funding: \$12,951.00
Staff/site preparation: \$4,451.00
Materials: \$8,500.00

FY2011 Seed Collection Funding: \$4,324.00
Contractors, Partners, Cooperators
Clements Nursery

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