



# Native Plant & Pollinator Gardens Manistee National Forest

## 2011 Accomplishments

Installation of native plant and pollinator gardens began on the Cadillac-Manistee Ranger District of the Manistee National Forest in 2008. So far, two gardens have been established at the District office, four gardens have been established at the Chittenden Conference Center, and one garden was established at the Lake Michigan Recreation Area. The Lake Michigan Recreation Area is typically visited by 10,000 people every year, so it is a prime location to teach people about pollinators, native plants, and butterfly-host plant relationships. Each garden contains at least one species of milkweed and a variety of flowering plants to provide nectaring opportunities throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Visitors have been curious about the gardens and are generally very excited to learn about them.

In addition to the gardens, 33 acres of seedbeds have been planted with native grasses and wildflowers to provide habitat and grow seed for restoration efforts across the Forest. Thirteen acres were planted for more intense production of lupine, common milkweed, New England aster, coreopsis, and bee balm. The remaining 20 acres were planted with a combination of 25 species of wildflowers and 6 species of grasses to support a variety of pollinators, including monarchs. This year a "Checklist of the Butterflies and Skippers of the Huron-Manistee National Forests" was printed to encourage interest in the butterflies and skippers that visit the area.



Figure 1. Native plant and pollinator garden in front of the Conifers Conference Center at Chittenden



Figure 2. Native plant and pollinator garden at Cadillac-Manistee Ranger District office

Year Project Initiated: 2008

Project completion: 2011

Report number: 2 of 2

Expenditures (through 10/2011): \$58,008

FY11 funding: \$9,000

Contact Person & phone number:  
Carolyn Henne (231) 723-2211



**Manistee National Forest**  
Manistee Ranger District  
412 Red Apple Rd  
Manistee, MI 49660