

Master Gardener Program



The Michigan Master Gardener Program is a horticulture education and volunteer leader training program offered by Michigan State University Extension (MSUE). An interest in plants, a personal commitment to volunteerism and an enthusiasm for sharing knowledge with others are the only prerequisites for application to the Program.

For more information about the Sunrise Side Master Gardeners Association or the Master Gardener Program, contact the MSU Extension at (989) 362-3449.

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Lumberman's Monument is located in Iosco County, Michigan between Oscoda, Tawas City and Hale at the intersection of River Road and Monument Roads. For more information on Lumberman's Monument see <http://fs.usda.gov/hmrf> or call 989 362 8961.

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Huron-Manistee National Forest

Mio Ranger District
107 McKinley Road
Mio, Mi 48647

Pollinator and Native Gardens at Lumberman's Monument, Oscoda, Michigan



What are Pollinators and Native Plants?

Pollination, the transfer of pollen from one flower to another, is a vital stage in the life cycle of all flowering plants. **Pollinators** (the agents of pollination) include wind, bees, butterflies, beetles, flies, and hummingbirds. Pollinators are important to our well-being and the health of our environment. It has been estimated that one out of every three mouthfuls of food we eat and of the beverages we drink, is delivered to us by pollinators.

Native Michigan has been reshaped by development and agriculture. The native habitat that remains often is in isolated patches and is degraded by pesticides, invasive plant species, and changes in land management. Habitat fragmentation is a serious challenge to the survival of many native bees and other native species of animals and plants. You can help native species and the environment by incorporating native plants in your landscape.

Native plants are those plants that were growing here naturally before European settlement; around the mid 1800s. Many of our wildflowers are not native and have become invasive including crown vetch, Queen Anne's lace, chicory, dandelion, oxeye daisy, garlic mustard, orange daylily, sweet clover, and periwinkle.

History of the Gardens at Lumberman's Monument

In 2009, the Huron Manistee Forest Service and the Sunrise Side Master Gardeners Association joined forces to design and establish landscaping at the Monument Interpretive Center that demonstrates the use of environmentally correct landscapes that will attract native pollinators.

In the fall of 2009, the team installed the native pollinator garden located right outside the Interpretive Center Buildings. The gardens were designed to provide native nectar and host plants for native bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds throughout the growing season.

In the summer of 2010, the team installed the butterfly garden near the walkway and started the prairie garden near the road on the entrance drive. These gardens provide food and shelter to our native wildlife.

Some of the principles the team used to design the garden included:

- Target plants for native pollinators; nectar, food, shelter.
- Use native plants.
- Use the right plant for the right place.
 - Plant for the soil that exists.
 - Select drought tolerant plants where possible.
 - Select plants that are Zone 4 compatible.
 - Select plants that do not need a lot of fertilizer.
- Design for minimal maintenance.
- Use no pesticides and minimal use of herbicides.
- Remove invasive plants.
- Make gardens a learning experience for visitors.

References:

- Steiner, Lynn M., "Landscaping with Native Plants of Michigan", 2006.
- NRCS and the Wildlife Habitat Council paper "Native Pollinators" Number 34, dated May 2005.
- Pollinator Partnership and NAPPC, "Selecting Plants for Pollinators, Laurentian Mixed Forest Province"
- See the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association website (www.mnppa.org) for a list of invasive species.

Plants in the Gardens at Lumberman's Monument

Common Name	Light Requirements	Drought Tolerant
Aster	Part shade	Yes
Beardtounge	Sun, part shade	Yes
Bee Balm	Sun, light shade	No
Black-eyed Susan	Sun, light shade	Yes
Blazing Star	Sun	Yes
Blue Flag Iris	Sun, part shade	No
Butterfly Weed	Sun, light shade	Yes
Cardinal Flower	Sun, light shade	No
Columbine	Sun, shade	Yes
Coneflower	Sun, light shade	Yes
Coreopsis	Sun	Yes
Culver's Root	Sun, light shade	No
Goldenrods	Sun	Yes
Ironweed	Sun, light shade	No
Lupine	Sun	No
New Jersey Tea	Sun, light shade	Yes
Parlin's Pussytoes	Sun, light shade	Yes
Sneezeweed	Sun	Yes
Staghorn Sumac	Sun	Yes
Swamp Milkweed	Sun, light shade	No
Woodland Sunflower	Sun, part shade	Yes
Yarrow	Sun	Yes

Native Grasses

Canadian Wild Rye	Indian Grass
Little Bluestem	Prairie Cordgrass
Big Bluestem	Prairie Dropseed
	Switch Grass