

Seed Gathering report, 6/30/24

by Peter Lev

Bill Hilgartner, Kay McConnell and I planted Annual Fimbry at two locations on Sunday, June 30. We had two batches of Fimbry to work with—one grown in a greenhouse, the other grown outdoors—but only about 25 seedlings total. The greenhouse plants were placed in a rocky spot on the south side of the meadow and marked with red flags saying “Fimbry Green.” The outdoor grown plants were placed in a small meadow opening off the Yellow Trail and west of the “Remediated Meadow” sign. They were marked with red flags saying “Fimbry.” This plant is an annual, so progress will be marked by 1. Whether the young plants survive the summer; and 2. Whether Fimbry plants grow in these two locations next summer. Fimbry is fairly common in BHB during wet years, so I don’t think we need to do further work with this species.

The Tall Boneset seedlings we planted weeks ago are doing fairly well. They survived the late June heat wave but most of them are still quite small. An outdoor batch of Tall Boneset is still at Cylburn, ready to be planted. This plant does very well when grown in potting soil. The remaining seedlings should be planted on the north side of Bare Hills Barrens, in openings near the Orange Trail. Kay suggested that we wait on this until August.

Fame Flower, the rarest plant in BHB, has not done well so far in the greenhouse or outdoors at Cylburn. Only a handful of plants have come up. However, Dwight Johnson and I planted Fame Flower seeds last fall in a few locations in and around the large meadow, and we have seen good concentrations of Fame Flower as a result. One small rocky section is hosting about 20 plants! We should gather Fame Flower seeds again in late summer or early fall and plant them in smaller meadow areas.

We need to gather seeds fairly soon (mid-July) for *Asclepias verticillata* (Whorled Milkweed) and *Dichantelium oligosanthos* (a species of Witch-grass). Bill already has about 15 *Dichantelium* seeds, and Whorled Milkweed is starting to bloom. Then we need to propagate seedlings for these two species over the winter.

After two weeks of very high temperatures, native grasses in the large meadow are wilting and Greenbriar plants are thriving. This contrasts with the last two growing seasons when Little Bluestem and other grasses competed well against Greenbriar. Not much that we can do about that, unless Roger and Will have a suggestion. Ample rain in July and August would help.