

Rewilding *Torreya taxifolia*
to Waynesville, North Carolina, July 2008
31 potted seedlings planted into natural forest habitats

Reflections by Janet Marinelli

August 4, 2008

Note: Janet Marinelli attended the July 30 *Torreya* planting as a writer commissioned to write a story on assisted migration by *Audubon* magazine.

I won't have the opportunity to reflect properly about the events of last week until I sit down to write my story. For the past 18 years I've been writing about imperiled plants and what gardeners and other nature lovers can do to help them survive. It's been heartening to see volunteers like the ones who defy oppressive heat and humidity every Fourth of July to hand pollinate the prairie white-fringed orchid in tiny prairie remnants in Illinois; the plant has become so rare and isolated that its sphinx moth pollinators rarely find it. But the sight of the little planted *Torreya* trees, with all they represent, in the midst of the dying hemlocks in those beautiful forests in the North Carolina mountains took my breath away.