

Pollinator Garden Expansion at Midewin NTP

2008 Accomplishments

As part of ecological restoration and environmental education, native plant gardens have been established at the Supervisor's Office and several public access points at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. This award enabled Midewin to expand and enhance these gardens with appropriate native plants to attract pollinators. This includes grasses, forbs, and shrubs that provide nectar, and shelter for a diversity of pollinators, and food plants for the larvae of insect pollinators.

Although the focus of recent plantings has been monarch butterflies, which use Midewin's restorations and gardens as nectaring sites during fall migration, the plantings have also benefited a wide range of pollinators, including ruby-throated hummingbirds, swallowtail butterflies, skippers, sphinx moths, native bees, and countless other insect pollinators.

During 2008, this award enabled Midewin to purchase approximately 2400 plants representing forty species important to local pollinators, including the following nectar sources or larval food plants:

- milkweeds (5 species);
- blazing-stars (2 species);
- ironweeds (1 species);
- bonesets (3 species);
- prairie-clovers (2 species);
- asters (4 species);
- goldenrods (4 species);
- alexanders (2 species);
- coneflowers (4 species);
- native grasses (6 species); and
- native sedges (2 species).

All these plants were installed through the expansion or enhancement of existing garden projects, with the help of volunteers and participants in Midewin's environmental education programs. Seed produced by plants in the pollinator gardens is harvested and used to initiate and enhance pollinator gardens at local schools or other local community gardening projects.



Swamp milkweed provides nectar for a wide range of pollinators, including monarch butterflies. Photo by Bill Glass.

Year Awarded: 2008

Project completion: 2008

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures:

- FY08 funding: \$3,000
- Expend: \$3,000
- Remaining: \$0

Partners: Midewin Volunteers

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**Midewin National
Tallgrass Prairie**

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