



Activities in Support of Monarch Butterfly Joint Venture Ottawa National Forest 2010 Accomplishments

Four main activities were conducted this year in support of butterflies and monarchs in particular.

Field surveys for rare butterflies and tiger beetles were conducted on about 1900 acres in two proposed vegetative management areas, to inform project effects analysis and to provide baseline information on abundance and distribution on the Forest. An RFSS butterfly and monarchs were documented.

Common and swamp milkweed seeds were collected on the Ottawa NF in 2009 and raised at the Forest Service's Toumey Nursery and by a contractor for outplanting in 2010. Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) was planted in a meadow that is part of a recreational site, and is currently infested with non-native invasive plants including spotted knapweed and smooth brome. An approximately 200 sq. ft. patch was sprayed with herbicide to kill the noxious weeds prior to planting about 400 common milkweed seedlings. About 100 swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) seedlings were planted in a new rain/wetland garden developed as part of administrative site construction, to filter and infiltrate roof and pavement runoff. An interpretive sign was designed and produced for the garden, including information on the at-risk monarch butterfly. Monarch caterpillars were found on the plants within 2 months of planting!

A butterfly checklist and food plant brochure was developed using information from the North American Butterfly Association as to which species occur on the Ottawa NF. NABA members also supplied some photos for the brochure. The brochure was developed using a regional template and is copied for local distribution and posted to the Forest's web page.



Figure 1. Planting common milkweed for monarch conservation, Black River Harbor, Bessemer, MI.



Figure 2. Monarch caterpillar grazing on newly planted swamp milkweed at rain garden, Visitor Center, Ottawa NF.

Year project Initiated: 2010

Project completion: Milkweed planting and butterfly conservation is expected to be ongoing for several years.

Report number: 1 of 1

FY10 Funding: \$9,462. In-kind contributions by NABA.

Partners/Contractors/Cooperators: North American Butterfly Association, J.W. Toumey Nursery, Wildflower Woods, Stephen Ross.

Contact person & phone number: Sue Trull, Botanist, 906-932-1330 ext. 312



Figure 3. Planting the rain garden, including swamp milkweed.



Ottawa National Forest
E6248 US Hwy.2
Ironwood, MI 49938