



# Welcome Monarchs! Shawnee National Forest 2010 Accomplishments

This project was initiated in 2010 to enhance native plant pollinator gardens with plants on the nectar of which monarch butterflies love to feed and that monarch caterpillars rely on for food. Plants such as New England aster, common boneset, dogbane, black-eyed Susan, and butterfly weed were obtained from plant rescues and from another native wildflower garden. Other plants were purchased from a local nursery and included Joe-Pye weed, purple coneflower, and orange coneflower. Species will continue to be transplanted from plant rescues and through nursery purchases as they become available.

The “Welcome Monarchs!” project is an extension of the “Partners and Pollinator Gardens” project that was initiated in 2009 on the Hidden Springs Ranger District. Figure 1 was taken in the half-acre garden with butterfly weed in fruit, purple coneflower and Joe-Pye weed. Figure 2 shows plants being prepared for planting in the one-acre pollinator garden in front of the new office building.



Figure 2. Students from Vienna High School volunteered their time in moving plants and preparing beds for plantings.



Figure 1. Adam O'Connor and Jackie Stempien prepare to put in fall plantings for monarch butterflies.

Year Project Initiated: 2010

Project completion: 2014

Report number: 1 of 4

Expenditures (through 10/2010): \$2,888.91

FY10 funding – NFN3

Partners/Contractors/Cooperators: Partners include Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc., Shawnee Audubon Society, Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club, Southern Illinois Audubon Society, Southern Illinois University Restoration Club, Vienna High School, and Anna-Jo Garden Club.

Contact Person & phone number:  
E.L. Shimp 618-658-2111



**Shawnee National Forest**  
Hidden Springs Ranger District  
Vienna, IL 62995