



Activities in Support of Monarch Butterfly Joint Venture Ottawa National Forest 2011 Accomplishments

This year, several plantings of nectar plants for monarchs and other butterflies were conducted. Seeds were collected on the Ottawa National Forest and seedlings raised at the Forest Service's JW Toumey Nursery. Species were selected which thrive in open disturbed areas as well as provide for pollinator needs: evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*), black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) and common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*).

About 900 mixed seedlings were planted by Forest Service staff and volunteers in a meadow at a popular lake-side day use area, next to milkweed planted in 2010. The intent is to reclaim this meadow from non-native invasives including spotted knapweed and smooth brome, and to provide enhanced species diversity and plants for pollinators.

Seedlings of the four target species were planted at a recently vacated administrative site, for pollinators, species diversity, and site restoration. Seedlings were also added to existing native plant/pollinator gardens at three administrative sites and one recreation area, and planted in two new, small, office-front locations. Plant labels on stakes were added for interpretive purposes.

Seedlings of the state threatened/Regional Forester's Sensitive dwarf bilberry (*Vaccinium cespitosum*), the host for the larvae of the similarly listed northern blue butterfly (*Lycaeides idas nabokovi*) were also raised at Toumey Nursery. About 150 of these seedlings were planted at two locations, continuing previous efforts to increase this plant on the landscape.

In addition to planting, a prescribed burn and a mechanical treatment were conducted on 19 acres, to retard succession and maintain an opening with graminoids and flowering plants which will provide enhanced habitat for butterflies and other pollinators.



Figure 1.
Prescribed
fire in
opening

A program was presented on pollinators, including monarchs, at the Forest Visitor Center. Also, at a tribal youth camp session, Forest Service staff led kids in making seed balls containing milkweed and other seeds for distribution in the northern Michigan and Wisconsin area.



Figure 2. Planting area at Black River Harbor (see straw-mulched patch mid-photo)

Year project initiated: 2010

Project completion: Planting of milkweed and other nectar plants is expected to be ongoing for several years.

Report number: 2

FY11 Funding: NFN3 (\$2600); NFWF (\$3733); other NF codes (\$800); WFHF (\$2700); Volunteers (\$320)

Partners/Contractors/Cooperators: JW Toumey Nursery, Ottawa Fire Program, local volunteers.

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



Figure 3.
Seedlings ready
for planting



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