



Tagging Monarchs Wayne National Forest 2011 Accomplishments

Mid-September to early-October have the biologists visiting old fields and wildlife openings (e.g. Figure 1) in search of migrating Monarch butterflies. Once caught a small disc "tag" with a 3-letter and 3-number code is adhered to the monarchs hind wing. (Figure 2). Information on the sex of the butterfly and the location of the capture is also recorded. After all is processed the butterfly is then free to continue on its flight south to the mountains of Mexico. The purpose of this project is to record the location of capture to the point of recovery thereby providing information on the migratory route, the influence of encountered weather patterns and survival rates.

Tagging monarch butterflies began on the Wayne National Forest in 2008. Information collected on the butterflies is sent to the Monarch Watch program at the University of Kansas .

Since the beginning of the tagging program in 2008 172 butterflies have been tagged (104 in FY11). To date no tags have been recovered....yet!



Figure 2. A tagged male monarch



Figure 1. One third of the monarchs tagged in 2011 were from this small ironweed patch near the highway.

Year Project Initiated: 2008

Project completion: Ongoing

Report number: 1 of 2

Expenditures (through 10/2011): NFWF \$1235.00

FY11 Funding: Wayne National Forest -
Volunteers

Contact Person & phone number:
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Propagation of Milkweed and Planting of Nectar Sources Wayne National Forest 2011 Accomplishments

Seeds from milkweed and various nectar producing plants were collected from native regional stock and planted in trays. These seedlings are being grown in the Forest shade house and will be transplanted into prairie areas on the Athens Ranger District around the Nelsonville and Marietta offices this spring. Additionally, seed from native stock was collected and planted around areas that had been disturbed due to oil and gas well plugging.



Figure 2: Starting trays with milkweed seedlings.



Figure 1: Seeds from a milkweed pod

Year Project Initiated: 2011

Project completion: 2012

Report number: 2 of 2

Expenditures (through 10/2011): NFN3 \$300.00

FY11 Funding: Wayne National Forest -
Volunteers

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