



# Huron Manistee National Forest

## 2012 Accomplishments

In 2003 the first Monarch Waystation Pollinator Garden was established at the Baldwin Ranger District in a former roadbed on 56<sup>th</sup> Street. Three additional pollinator gardens were created in subsequent years with an emphasis on milkweed plants and monarch habitat. By 2011, all four Pollinator Gardens/Monarch Waystations supported monarch adults and larvae. Additional milkweed seed is added to all of the gardens yearly to keep improving milkweed abundance.

Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and 13 other nectar species were planted in 160 4'x8' fenced plots in endangered Karner Blue Butterfly restoration areas in fall 2012, adding to the 149 created in past years. These 360 nectar increase beds are each planted to a total of 32 plants composed of 3 – 5 different nectar species. In addition 55 new acres were seeded for nectar plants on the District. Seasonal staff also weeded the 40 acres of nectar seed beds planted in 2010/11.

One educational talk was presented to the public on pollinator habitat in FY12 that targeted Monarchs and Monarch Waystations developed in the home landscape. Guided tours were given to several groups at the Loda Lake Pollinator Garden/Monarch Waystation, including one home school. A pollinator plant identification and garden guide was developed in a prototype design to test usefulness to garden visitors at the Loda Lake pollinator garden. The boy scouts constructed the podium stand for the flipbook guide. Feedback surveys will be conducted in 2013 and incorporated into field guide revisions prior to putting the flipbook guide into final production for additional pollinator gardens.

Ten pounds of seed of milkweed and other nectar plants were collected from the pollinator habitats in fall of 2012 for supplemental planting on the District, with an emphasis on use of the seed in the Karner Blue Butterfly restoration area.



Figure 1. Common milkweed and butterflyweed seed pods

Year Project Initiated: 2003 w/ Lake Co. Road Commission (LCRC); FY2006+ USFS native plant funding

Project completion: On-going for maintenance, seed collection, supplemental planting for diversity.

Report number: 8

**Expenditures (through 10/2011): \$126,192**  
**FY12 funding: GLRI \$74,300; NFWF \$2600; CWKV \$6100; WFHF \$4000; NFWV \$3000; partners \$1100**

Partners/Contractors/Coop:).Lake Co. Road Commission, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (EPA), Garden Clubs of Michigan, Michigan DNR, boy scouts, Nat'l Wild Turkey Fed., Ruffed Grouse Society, individual volunteers

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