



Monarch Monitoring Project Hiawatha National Forest

2012 Accomplishments

In 2012, one hundred thirty hours of volunteer time was donated to the Monarch Research Project at Peninsula Point. The project involves larval monitoring, migration census and tagging.

The Larval Monitoring Project was led by a volunteer coordinator and four volunteers. Random transects were run weekly June through September. Data collected includes the number of monarch larvae, number of monarch eggs and the number of milkweed plants. This long-term data set not only collects information on the reproduction of the monarch butterfly, but also weather data which has become increasingly important.

Migration monitoring was conducted by one volunteer. Monitoring of butterfly migration consists of counting the number of butterflies at Peninsula Point as they pass through in the fall, usually between August and September. Migration monitoring is conducted three times a day at 7am, 10 am and 3pm. In 2012, there were small numbers of migrating monarchs recorded.

In its fourth consecutive year, monarch butterfly activities were a part of the "More Kids in the Woods" Program at Peninsula Point. This is a partnership with Wildlife Unlimited of Delta County, the YMCA of Delta County and the Hiawatha National Forest. Activities include learning about the life cycle of monarch butterflies and their migration.

Also habitat was improved for the monarch butterfly. A Youth Conservation Corp crew removed invasive St. John's wort from the fields where monarchs nectar and reproduce. Native plant species were planted in place of the removed weeds.



Figure 1. YMCA day campers check out an aquarium containing monarch butterflies and various sizes of monarch caterpillars.



Figure 2. An excited YMCA day camper gets a close up look at a monarch butterfly.

Year Project Initiated : This monitoring project is a continuation of migration census and tagging work begun in 1996 and Monarch Larval Monitoring Project (MLMP) site data collection started in 1997.

Project completion: This effort has resulted in one of the longest MLMP data sets. Yearly, all three aspects of the monitoring program (migration census, tagging and larval monitoring) is completed with minimal expense by a group of very dedicated volunteers.

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures: \$655.00 in fiscal 2012

FY12 funding (partner): \$100.00

Partners/Contractors/Coop: Wildlife Unlimited of Delta County (provides stipend for volunteers)

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