



# Maintaining Monarchs on Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie

## 2012 Accomplishments

Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie has been restoring habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators for nearly a decade. Past habitat accomplishments have included restoration of over 2000 acres of prairie and wetland habitats planted with native milkweed species. Midwin staff has yearly conducted educational programs focusing on native pollinators and monarchs, including the installation of several pollinator gardens. Stewardship activities have also included invasive plant control efforts in monarch habitats. In 2012, volunteers monitored monarchs and other butterflies on eleven tracts on Midwin; however, the summer of 2012 was not especially productive on Midwin for monarchs and other pollinators. Prolonged drought with periods of record high temperatures, suppressed reproduction in monarchs and other butterflies.



Figure 1. Intern Alyssa Esch demonstrates sweeping techniques for safe capture and identification of butterflies during Pollinator Week's 'Buzzing about the Prairie'.



Figure 2. YCC crew members Shelby Chesico and Amber Shibley demonstrate planting techniques for volunteers during pollinator garden expansion.

Year Project Initiated: Monarch and pollinator-related projects have been ongoing since 2002.

Project completion: There are no set completion dates; habitat restoration and education activities for native plants and wildlife (including pollinators) are an ongoing part of Midwin's mission.

Report number: 1 (2012)

Expenditures (through 9/30/12): \$3,500

FY12 funding: NFWW, NFRW, CFMC, NFWF Partners/Contractors/Coop:).  
Midwin Alliance, National Forest Foundation, The Wetlands Initiative

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**Midwin National Tallgrass  
Prairie**

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