



Activities in Support of Monarch Butterfly Joint Venture Ottawa National Forest 2012 Accomplishments

Planting of pollinator-friendly herbs continued at Black River Harbor meadow. The intent is to reclaim this meadow from non-native invasive plants including spotted knapweed and smooth brome, and to provide enhanced species diversity and plants for pollinators. Improving the visual appearance at this popular recreation site is also an objective. This year, in addition to planting, we added layers of compost and wood chips. These materials had to be transported over the historic suspension foot bridge, small loads at a time. In the prepared area, about 250 common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), 145 false sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*), and 100 big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) seedlings were planted. These seedlings were raised from Ottawa-collected seed at the Forest Service's J.W. Toumey Nursery.

The Ottawa set up and staffed a 4-day exhibit on pollinators at the Gogebic County Fair. The booth featured the monarch life cycle illustrated by large inflatables as well as information on other types of pollinators and sample insects to view under microscopes.

We maintained and enhanced six native plant/pollinator gardens at four administrative sites and one recreation area. Common milkweed is very abundant at one garden and a "monarch way station" sign has been added.

We used mowers, brush and chain saws to retard succession by woody species and maintain about 15 acres of upland openings where common milkweed occurs, along with other nectar plants for butterflies.

Ottawa Botanists led three programs where children could make clay "seed balls" containing milkweed and other native plant seeds for distribution in northern Michigan and Wisconsin. We also collected common milkweed seed for future projects.



Figure 1.
Planting
at Black
River
Harbor on
Lake
Superior



Figure 2. Pollinator booth at Gogebic County Fair

Year project initiated: 2010

Project completion: Planting of milkweed and other nectar plants is expected to be ongoing for several years as are other activities which benefit monarchs.

Report number: 3.

FY12 Funding: NFWF (\$4310); NFWV (\$4447); other NF codes (\$1850); Partner (\$3200); Volunteers (\$175 plus donated compost and woodchips).

Partners/Contractors/Cooperators: JW Toumey Nursery, Ruffed Grouse Society, local volunteers.

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Figure 3.
Making
"seed balls"
and "grass
heads" at
Family Fun
Night,
Ironwood,
Michigan



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Ironwood, MI 49938