



# Welcome Monarchs! Shawnee National Forest 2012 Accomplishments

This project was continued in 2012 to maintain the native plant pollinator gardens with plants that monarchs rely on for food. Plants such as black-eyed Susan, butterfly weed, purple coneflower, and New England aster were previously obtained from 3 local nurseries as well as dozens of other native plant species targeted for other pollinators.

This year, we focused on maintaining the gardens, pulling out the undesirable plants and providing water to plants to overcome the drought conditions this summer brought us. Species will continue to be transplanted from plant rescues and through nursery purchases as they become available. Local nurseries have been stocking more native species during the last 2 years than ever before... perhaps a result of the Forest Service and partners' continuous requests for native species.

The "Welcome Monarchs!" project is an extension of the "Partners and Pollinator Gardens" project that was initiated in 2009 on the Shawnee National Forest. Figure 1 was taken in the 0.1-acre pollinator garden in front of the Vienna District office building. Figure 2 was taken at our Murphysboro Work Center location.



Figure 2. Jessica Robinson pulls the undesirable plants from this small garden at Murphysboro Work Center.



Figure 1. Caterpillar taking advantage of the Butterfly Weed. Photo taken by Misty McElyea Dodd .

Year Project Initiated: 2010

Project completion: 2014

Report number: 3 of 5

Expenditures (through 10/2012): \$5,898.71  
FY12: \$1,340

FY12 funding – NFW08

Partners/Coop - Partners include Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc., Shawnee Audubon Society, Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club, Southern Illinois Audubon Society, Southern Illinois University Restoration Club, Vienna High School, and Anna-Jo Garden Club.

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