



# Beneficial Monarch Activities on Wayne National Forest

## 2012 Accomplishments

To benefit Monarch butterflies, the Wayne National Forest has been tagging monarchs to monitor their southern migration and producing native milkweeds, their host plants.

In 2012, Hocking College interns planted native milkweed seeds (butterfly weed, common milkweed and swamp milkweed) for spring germination, transferred seedlings to plug trays in summer, and in fall transplanted them to restoration sites at: Wayne National Forest Headquarters, Greendale Wetland, and Upstream Rock Run to improve habitat for monarchs and other native pollinators. Over 700 milkweeds were planted by interns and volunteers who contributed over 139 hours to the Forest's Native Plant Program.

From mid-September to early-October biologists searched for migrating monarchs to monitor. Once caught, a small disc "tag" was adhered to the monarch's hind wing. Information on each butterfly's sex and location of capture were recorded. Then the tagged butterflies were freed to continue their flight south to the mountains of Mexico. Data collected on the monarchs was sent to the Monarch Watch program at the University of Kansas. The purpose of this project is to match the locations of capture to those of recovery, thereby providing information on monarch migratory routes, weather pattern impacts and survival rates.

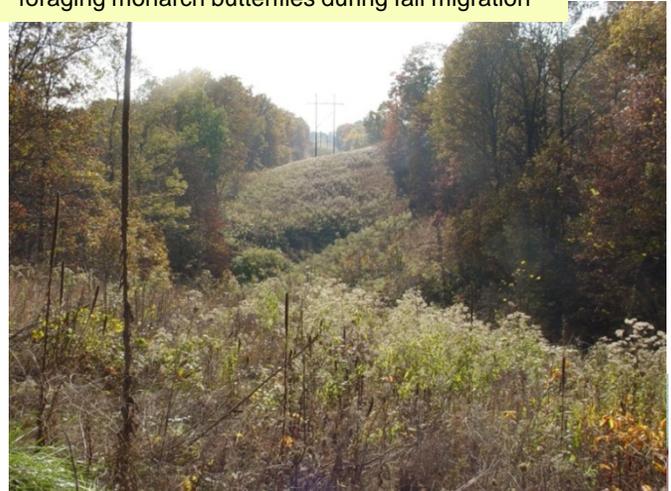
Since the beginning of the tagging program in 2008, 182 butterflies have been tagged. To date no tags have been recovered.

**Figure 1.** A college intern transplants milkweeds



**Figure 2.** Swamp milkweed seedlings

**Figure 3.** Power-line corridors offer habitat for foraging monarch butterflies during fall migration



**Figure 4.** A tagged male monarch

Year Project Initiated: **2008**

Project completion: **Ongoing**

Report number: **1 of 1**

Expenditures (FY 2012): **NFWF \$2,360.00**

FY12 Funding: **Wayne National Forest**

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