



Partnerships for Pollinators at Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie

2013 Accomplishments

The restoration of habitat for Monarch butterflies and other pollinators has been a priority for the Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie since restoration work began in 1996. Partner organizations and volunteers have assisted in this effort. Volunteers have been monitoring butterflies and moths at Midwin since 1999. In 2013, volunteers contributed over 66 hours to survey 6 different sites. The data collected provides a glimpse into the species and numbers of butterflies and moths visiting the prairie.

During 2013, a partnership with the National Forest Foundation (NFF) funded a group of Chicago urban youth interns to participate in hands on restoration work at the Sand Ridge Project that began in 2008. Interns from NFF and students from the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) planted native prairie plugs of 40 different native plant species, including several Milkweed species, some of which were grown from seed at the Midwin production facility. Over 3,000 native plant plugs were installed, enhancing the species diversity and size of native plantings in this ongoing restoration project. As the students participate in stewardship activities such as planting, they also learn the importance of pollinators firsthand throughout the summer.



Figure 2. Students installing native prairie plugs at the Sand Ridge. Photo by Jen Durkin



Figure 1. The YCC and NFF crews along with Midwin staff after a productive morning planting native forbs and grasses. Photo by Jen Durkin

Year Project Initiated: Restoration at the Sand Ridge Project began in 2008 and is ongoing

Project completion: Restoration activities at the Sand Ridge continue by enhancing the number and amount of native plant species and through continuing invasive control.

Report number: 1 (2013)

Expenditures (through 10/2013): \$39,750

Funding: NFWW, NFWF
Partners/Contractors/Coop:) National Forest Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Dow Chemical, Centerpoint Properties

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