



# Overhauling the Stuart Recreation Area Pollinator Garden Monongahela National Forest 2013 Accomplishments

The Monongahela National Forest worked on many fronts to completely overhaul the 5,500 square foot pollinator garden that was established in 2010 at one of the forest's most visited locations, Stuart Recreation Area.

In October of 2012, Hurricane Sandy hit the pollinator garden causing extensive damage from fallen trees including crushed cages, uprooted plants, and unstable soils (Figure 1). Essentially, the garden was returned to its initial condition. To make matters worse, it took almost 7 months to completely remove fallen and damaged trees from the recreation area. During this time, the garden could not be accessed due to active contract work, and volunteers could not perform regular maintenance and weeding.

The garden needed to be completely overhauled to bring back its value to pollinators, especially monarch butterflies.

Over 100 new plants were purchased and planted in the garden (Figure 2). The Monongahela focused on milkweed species specifically to increase the quality of the garden for monarch butterflies including butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and four-leaved milkweed (*Asclepias quadrifolia*). All plants were purchased from a local grower who obtained native plant material from local genetic stock.

The Forest hopes to add a monarch Waystation to the garden in 2014 and plans to use seeds from these newly planted milkweed.



Figure 2. Over 100 native plants were established in 2013 including butterfly weed, common milkweed, and four-leaved milkweed.

to help establish a rain garden at Petersburg Elementary School and other locations.



Figure 2. Over 20 fallen trees were removed from the Stuart Pollinator Garden. These trees were brought down during Hurricane Sandy in October 2012.

Year Project: 2013

Project completion: Ongoing

Report number: 2

Expenditures (through 10/13): \$21,780

FY13 Funding

Partners/Contractors/Coop: Forest Service, Terra Flora Landscaping, and Appalachian Forest Heritage Area

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