



Welcome Monarchs! Shawnee National Forest 2013 Accomplishments

This project was continued in 2013 to enhance 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 as well as dozens of other native plant species targeted for other pollinators were maintained. 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' requests for native species. We continue to outreach the use of native plants.

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 new office building. Figure 2 was taken in the lower parking lot of the administrative grounds. This is the first year that Monarchs have visited the Vienna garden. Linda Hauser has seen monarchs on milkweeds at the Murphysboro Work Center since at least 2010.



Figure 1. Scales (insects) were found devouring Butterfly Weed, however, they were gently wiped off of plants periodically. Misty McElyea found this caterpillar taking advantage of the newly planted Butterfly Weed.



Figure 2. Misty McElyea caught this butterfly exploring a FS vehicle tire in September. Monarchs have been seen lingering at the District Office/Work Centers as late as Nov 7 feeding on purple coneflower and black-eyed Susan nectar.

Year Project Initiated: 2010

Project completion: 2014

Report number: 3 of 4

Expenditures (through 10/2013): \$6,558

FY13 funding – NFWW: \$1,750

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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