



MONARCH
JOINT VENTURE

Catwillow Monarch Project

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
Lakewood-Laona Ranger District

2014 Accomplishments

Catwillow Monarch Area (CMA) is a gated system of trails and 41 wildlife openings managed for pollinators by focusing on Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) and Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*).

During FY14, Monarchs, West Virginia White butterflies (*Pieris virginensis*), Yellow-banded Bumble Bees (*Bombus terricola*), and a variety of other species were documented during the pollinator surveys, including the Three-banded Lady Beetle (*Coccinella trifasciata*) – a native lady bug!

Another late spring delivered a repeat performance of Catwillow's bees and butterflies preferring American Red Raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) over Common Milkweed flowers.

Several species of native plants have been sown here since 2010 to increase floral diversity. This year, Fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*), Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), and Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) flowers joined the pollinator party, having finally bloomed from seed. Additional native seeds were collected for future sowings.



Figure 3. As Raspberry's bloom finally ended, pollinators (like this Yellow-banded Bumble Bee) began foraging on Common Milkweed flowers.



Figure 1. A Monarch caterpillar rests on Common Milkweed flowers during a July survey in the CMA.



Figure 2. Three-banded Lady Beetle, a native beneficial insect

Year Project Initiated : 2010

Project completion: On-going

Report number: 5 of 5

Expenditures (through 09/2014): \$3,357

FY14 funding: NFWF13, NFWV13

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