



MONARCH
JOINT VENTURE

Native Plant Materials Program Chippewa National Forest

2014 Accomplishments

In 2014, the Chippewa National Forest continued to maintain existing native plant pollinator gardens on the Blackduck and Deer River Ranger Districts, as well as at the Cutfoot Visitor Information Center (VIC) Pollinator Garden. The newly constructed Walker Ranger District office includes many areas of gardens and surrounding landscaping all seeded and planted to native plant species. The plants at Walker are in the beginning development stage, but in time the grounds will provide an abundant area for use by native pollinator species.

In June 2014, LLBO student workers removed hundreds of native sweetgrass (*Hierochloa odorata*) plants from a garden site at Camp Rabideau to transplant elsewhere in appropriate habitat locales on the Chippewa National Forest. Sweetgrass is an important part of traditional Ojibwe culture for spiritual and ceremonial purposes.



Sweetgrass in garden before transplanting

Among the wildflower plants established in the above-mentioned gardens are common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), and butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). These species are vital host plant habitat for monarch butterflies.

Collectively, over 30 different species occur in the gardens for use by native pollinators such as black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), common oxeye (*Heliopsis helianthoides*), great blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*), ironweed (*Vernonia missurica*), meadow blazing star (*Liatris ligulistylis*), purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*), wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*), blue vervain (*Verbena hastata*), fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*), and columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*).

The 2013 Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crew members built the pollinator gardens at the Norway Beach VIC, and in 2014, YouthWorks crews put in additional new shade garden beds. Milkweeds and other pollinator friendly plants also grow in these gardens. The Student Conservation Association naturalists do programs focused on bees and other pollinators, including a favorite program called “Bumblebee Condos”.



YouthWorks crew member and other volunteers working at the Norway Beach VIC Garden

Year Projects Initiated: Varies, 2008-2013

Project completion: Ongoing

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures (through 9/30/2014):
FY 2014: \$ 3,520.00

Partners/Contractors/Coop.): Volunteers, Youth Conservation Corps, Leech Lake Band Ojibwe (LLBO) Division of Resource Management, YouthWorks groups, Student Conservation Association

Contact Person and phone number:
Kirk W. Larson, Forest Botanist
(218) 335-8666



Chippewa National Forest
200 Ash Avenue NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633