



MONARCH
JOINT VENTURE

Huron Manistee National Forest Monarch and Native Plant Materials 2014 Accomplishments

The first Monarch Waystation was established for the Baldwin/White Cloud Ranger District in 2003. Since then, 5 additional pollinator gardens were created with an emphasis on milkweed plants. The pollinator habitats were expanded at two of the sites in 2014: the Little O Motorsport Trailhead on M37 and the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary pollinator garden. Expansion at Loda included a second dry site garden and a mesic rain garden. The M37 trailhead garden had additional sowing of nectar seed and planting of containerized plant material, along with intensive invasive plant removal.

Also, 1330 nectar plant plugs (butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), horsemint, yarrow, and hairy hawkweed) were planted in fall 2014 in an endangered Karner Blue Butterfly (KBB) restoration area. These plantings supplemented nectar plants previously planted from 2010 through 2012 in 340 fenced 4" x 8" nectar habitat beds located throughout 60 acres of occupied KBB habitat in Oceana and Muskegon Counties. In addition, 69 acres of nectar seed was planted in the KBB management areas and included both common and butterflyweed milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca* and *A. tuberosa*). These habitats also provide habitat for the Monarch and other pollinators.

Lastly, 29 acres of wildlife opening habitat restoration was seeded with a seed mix that included common milkweed for monarch habitat. Restoration seed mixes will continue to feature at least one milkweed species in District projects so as to create as much opportunity as possible for Monarch habitat support.



Figure 1. Nectar plug plots for butterfly habitat increase with Butterflyweed plug planting.

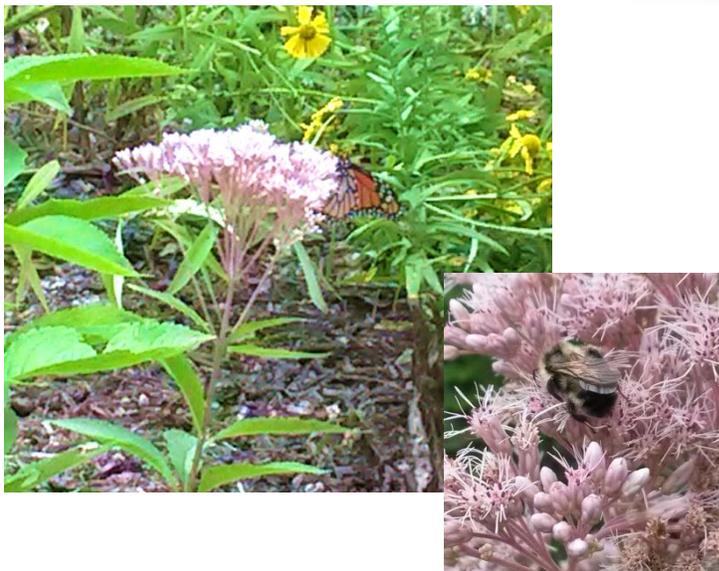


Figure 2. Pollinator Garden at Baldwin Ranger District with Monarch on Joe Pye weed and bees on common milkweed..

Year Project Initiated: 2003 w/ Lake Co. Road Commission (LCRC); FY2006+ USFS native plant funding

Project completion: On-going for maintenance, seed collection, supplemental planting for diversity.

Report number: 10

Expenditures 2014: MDNR \$5510; SSCC \$46,199; NFWV \$810; NFWF-botany \$5900; GLRI-NFXF \$1120

Partners/Contractors/Coop: Lake Co. Road Commission, Michigan Garden Clubs, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Michigan DNR

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