



**MONARCH**  
JOINT VENTURE

# Native Plant and Pollinator Projects Ottawa National Forest

## 2014 Accomplishments

We continued work at Black River Harbor day use area, to decrease invasive plants and increase native wildflowers with benefit to pollinators. We hand pulled invasives in areas planted in 2010-11, where native plant establishment was spotty and compost and mulch had not been added. We turned over the soil and covered the work areas for 4-5 weeks. In early September, we uncovered the plots and spread composted manure and wood chips. We planted about 750 seedlings of native herbs, grown at a Forest Service Nursery. Species included milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), little bluestem (*Andropogon scoparius*), and black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*).

We awarded contracts to local gardeners to maintain and enhance three upland and one wetland native plant/pollinator gardens and part of the meadow restoration area.

We worked with the National Wild Turkey Federation to retard succession in upland openings to benefit wildlife including pollinators. Encroaching trees such as spruce, fir, and cherry were cut down. About 403 acres in 46 openings were treated.

We awarded a contract for monitoring two transects for the state threatened northern blue butterfly (*Plebejus idas nabokovi*). Nineteen butterfly species were recorded but only one northern blue was observed, in contrast to the large population seen in 2001.

We held a June workshop, one of two pilot trainings sponsored by the Eastern Region and the Pollinator Partnership. Sessions included an overview of pollination, pollinator enhancement practices, bumble bee identification and collection. The 24 participants practiced netting insects and received pollinator identification and management materials.

We continued seed collection for pollinator-friendly herbs such as fireweed, false sunflower, pearly everlasting, sneezeweed, blue vervain, and evening primrose.

We provided pollination classroom presentations for four schools, including 215 students, and field trips on pollination for 159 students.



Figure 2. Blooming black-eyed susan at restoration meadow



Figure 3. Workshop participant studies captured bee

Year project initiated: varies, 1999 through 2014

Project completion: ongoing

Multiple job codes contributed to these projects, which were partially to benefit pollinators and partially for other purposes. Contracts were funded as: northern blue contract: \$6250 (NFXF5N). Openings contract: \$103,000 (Stewardship). Gardener contracts: \$2000 (NFVW). Seedlings for harbor area: \$318 (NFXF5N).

Partners/Contractors/Cooperators: J.W. Toumey Nursery; Pollinator Partnership; National Wild Turkey Federation; Ottawa Youth Conservation Corps; Biophilia, LLC.

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Figure 1. The single male northern blue observed along transects



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