



Welcome Monarchs! Shawnee National Forest

2014 Accomplishments

Pollinator gardens were completed in 2014 at the Jonesboro and Vienna Administrative Sites with an emphasis to plant species that encourage monarch butterflies to visit. Hundreds of plants, including numerous milkweeds, were transplanted into our gardens from a Forest Service office that recently closed. Numerous flowering plants were purchased from local nurseries, and hand tools and equipment (mower, weed eater, leaf blower) were also obtained to help with garden and native woodland maintenance. Visits from monarch butterflies have reduced visibly in numbers, but we are hopeful that our additional colorful display and new food sources will once again bring back these rare beauties.

This project is an extension of the “Partners and Pollinator Gardens” educational project that was initiated in 2009 as a Participating Agreement with 7 partners. A bike path was constructed by the city of Vienna that leads riders, walkers, and joggers to our Hidden Springs Administrative Site where they can explore our pollinator gardens. Plants have been labeled so that visitors can recognize different species during any season. A beautiful native sandstone border has been placed around two gardens and “Pollinator Garden” and “Monarch Butterfly” interpretive signs have been erected catching the eye of nearly every visitor.



Figure 3. YCC students help with the placement of sandstone borders around the pollinator gardens.



Figure 1. RC&D partners, Shay Chess and John B. Jones during early spring plantings. Figure 2. RC&D partner, Robbie Farrow preparing to transplant milkweeds during a plant rescue.

Year Project Initiated: 2010
 Project completion: 2014
 Report number: 5 of 5
 Expenditures (through 10/2014): \$39,638
 FY14 funding – NFWW: \$1,984

Partners/Cooperators - 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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