

# Popular Bluff Ranger District Native Pollinator Garden on the Mark Twain National Forest

## 2009 Accomplishments

A native pollinator garden was constructed on the Poplar Bluff Ranger District in the summer of 2009. This garden is an extension of a native garden established in 2008. Approximately 550 square feet of lawn turf were converted to wildflowers, grasses, vines, and shrubs native to the state of Missouri. An irrigation system was installed for use in extremely dry summers. The site location allowed plants of a variety of shade tolerances to be selected for planting. Twenty-nine species were planted, including butterfly weed, golden alexanders, columbine, fire pink, and several species of asters, liatris, and coneflowers. Each species is identified with a slate marker. Butterfly weed is a host plant for the monarch butterfly, which used the established garden extensively this year. Many adults hatched out as a result of the large number of butterfly weed plants. Golden alexanders was planted in this year's garden in hopes that the black swallowtail butterfly will benefit from the new garden. The remaining wildflowers will provide a smorgasboard of nectar for the ruby-throated hummingbird and an array of Missouri butterflies, including sulphurs, red admirals, hairstreaks, skippers, and others.



Figure 1: Native Pollinator Garden Constructed in 2009



Figure 2: Monarch Caterpillar

The garden is situated adjacent to the visitor parking area and serves as an interpretive area for Missouri's native vegetation. A bench near the garden provides a place for visitors to relax and learn about Missouri's native plants.

Year Awarded: initial awarded in 2009

Project completion: 2009

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures (through 9/2009): \$9,000.00

Native Rock: \$200.00

Plants: \$900.00

Slate Markers: \$350.00

Bench: \$200.00

Irrigation Supplies: \$100.00

Herbicide: \$20.00

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**Mark Twain National Forest**

Poplar Bluff Ranger District

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