

# THE CEDAR TREE INSTITUTE

*in cooperation with*  
*the United States Forest Service,*  
*U.P. Children's Museum, Marquette County Juvenile Court,*  
*Northern Michigan University's Center for Native American Studies*  
*and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community*

# ZAAGKII

## The WINGS & SEEDS Project

2011-2012



**S**ecrets of the Monarch  
from the land & peoples of  
Michigan's Upper Peninsula

**IN TRIBUTE TO BOBBIE & JAKE...**

*who for three summers walked forest  
trails, planted seedlings and carried on  
the vision for the Earth's healing.*



**AND IN GRATITUDE TO...**

*Jan Schultz, Botanist  
Eastern Region of the U.S. Forest Service*

*Judge Mike Anderegg  
Marquette County Juvenile Court*

*Jim Edwards  
Upper Peninsula Children's Museum*

*M.E. Davenport Foundation*

*Borealis Seed Company*

*Supporters of The Cedar Tree Institute*



**WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO 2011  
ZAAGKII PROJECT STAFF  
AND VOLUNTEERS...**

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Sue Rabitaille  
Mike Shelafoe  
Mari Feld  
Jeff Noble  
Bill Parkkonen  
Tom Biron*

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The WINGS & SEEDS Project

2008-2012



**S**ecrets of the Monarch  
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## ***A Challenge, A Hope, An Offering***

In this unfolding of the 21st century, we live in the midst of unprecedented shifts of consciousness about the natural environment.

Astonishing as it may appear, until Rachel Carson's publication of *Silent Spring* in 1963, the vast majority of the American public made little if any connection between environment and human health. There's now emerging a growing revolution about paying attention to air we breathe, the land on which we live, the forests we harvest, the waters we drink. We are only now, thanks to science and medicine, beginning to understand in ways we never imagined, that everything is connected.

The Zaagkii Project is a local, specific, creative response to this challenge. Our intention is to assist in protecting the integrity of our ecosystem in Northern Michigan. "Zaagkii" is an Ojibway term meaning "Loving gifts which come from the Earth." In 2008, elders from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community graciously suggested this name for our collaborative environmental efforts. This booklet is an overview of our work over the last four years.

The Cedar Tree Institute works with a conviction that the healing of the human spirit is linked with healing of the earth. The Institute continues to coordinate this Project (A Native Plants and Pollination Protection Initiative) in Northern Michigan with collaborative partners including the Marquette County Juvenile Court, area American Indian communities, the Upper Peninsula

Children's Museum  
and the United States  
Forest Service.

—Jon Magnuson  
Director, The  
Cedar Tree Institute



2011 Zaagkii Summer Staff  
Jeff Noble, Mari Feld and Mike Shelafoe



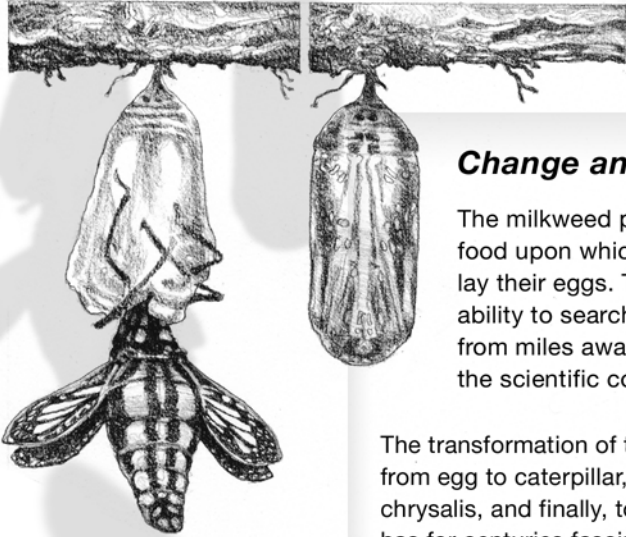


## ***Secrets of the Monarch***

In the July, 2011 issue of *National Geographic Magazine*, one will discover an article on the crisis of the world's growing population and the need to double food production. Yet crop yields, the writer reminds us, aren't increasing fast enough. Climate change and new diseases continue to threaten and limited varieties of seeds for the global food supply.

In facing this challenge, the role of pollinators (insects, bees and butterflies) will be critical to the survival of the human race. It is these fragile, tiny creatures that pollinate 80% of all fruits and vegetables. Here in Northern Michigan we have discovered, in recent years, that we are part of the migratory route of the most majestic of all pollinator species—The Monarch Butterfly. Hundreds of thousands of their descendents travel from Mexico each year to pollinate our meadows and regional plants, returning in October to spend winter months among the Oyamel fir trees high in the mountains near El Capanario and Angangueo. Buried in traditions of Michigan's Ojibway peoples, traditional dancers have celebrated the caterpillar's transformation and the Monarch's exquisite presence for hundreds of years.

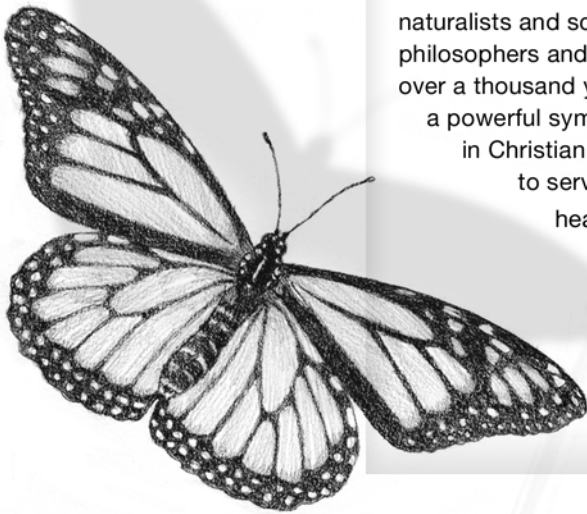




### ***Change and Mystery***

The milkweed plant is the only food upon which Monarchs will lay their eggs. Their uncanny ability to search out these plants from miles away still baffles the scientific community.

The transformation of the Monarch—  
from egg to caterpillar, to pupa in  
chrysalis, and finally, to butterfly—  
has for centuries fascinated not only  
naturalists and scientists, but also  
philosophers and theologians. For  
over a thousand years it has served as  
a powerful symbol of the Resurrection  
in Christian traditions. It continues  
to serve for many mental  
health professionals  
as a creative  
metaphor of  
personal  
transformation  
and  
change.





## ***The Eternal Return***

T.S. Eliot wrote, "The end of all our journeys is to return home and know it for the first time."

The migratory routes of the Monarch were not discovered until 1974. The gathering of the Monarch butterflies in the mountains of Mexico is regarded by many observers as one of "The Seven Wonders of the World." On their migratory journey from Michigan's Upper Peninsula to Mexico, these butterflies travel as low as 18 inches off the ground and as high as 11,000 feet in the air.



*Butterfly shelters constructed by  
Zaagkii youth volunteers*



In July of 2011, Kelly Constantino (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians) and Terri Denomie (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community) attended a Monarch Protection Workshop sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service.



The Cedar Tree Institute continues its plans to support a small delegation of area youth to travel and meet the Monarchs at their arrival in 2011 or 2012 in the mountains of Mexico.



In March of 2011, Susan LaFerner, secretary of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Tribal Council, received on behalf of KBIC and The Cedar Tree Institute, an *Outstanding Achievement Award for Butterfly Conservation* from the U.S. Forest Service.



## **Benchmarks**

### ***Zaagkii Project's Restoration and Healing Work***

For the last four summers, thanks to support of the Marquette Juvenile Court and the U.P. Children's Museum, we have coordinated 47 youth volunteers who have contributed 3157 hours of community service to our native plants restoration and pollination protection work. They've collected and disposed of invasive plants, prepared research projects, constructed bee and butterfly shelters, hosted community educational forums, cooked food for community festivals, and helped in the construction of a greenhouse on an American Indian Reservation in Michigan.

These collaborative efforts have included:

- 1130 seedlings (Native genotypes) planted on Grand Island*
- 24 seed reliquaries designed, painted & distributed*
- 36 bee shelters constructed, painted & given as gifts*
- 58,000 seeds (native genotype) distributed to local citizens*
- 6 native garden sculptures designed & distributed*
- 500 milkweed plugs transplanted*
- 34 research projects completed and presented*
- 74 cubic yards of garlic mustard and purple loosestrife removed*
- 371 guest meals served to community members & friends*
- 1,197 mushroom plugs planted in oak logs*
- 18 butterfly houses designed and distributed*
- 1870 milkweed seeds distributed*

On August 31, 2010 dedication of the first Native Plants greenhouse on an American Indian Reservation in Michigan took place with guests from across Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. The Cedar Tree Institute coordinated the building and initial operation of this 33' geodesic dome with the tribal council of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the U.S. Forest Service. September, 2011 marks the anniversary of its first year of operation to restore native plants.



## **ON THE HORIZON 2011-2012**

### **A Regional Tribal Outreach**

The Upper Peninsula of Michigan is home to five American Indian reservations. In 2011, The Cedar Tree Institute implemented a plan to formally reach out to explore future partnerships, building on the Zaagkii Project's vision to support Native American tribal communities in efforts to recover and reclaim their role as custodians of the land's original plants and botanical life. In April of 2011, the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Chippewa Indians tribal council made a formal resolution to join in such collaborative efforts with The Cedar Tree Institute and the United States Forest Service. Conversations with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Hannahville Potawatomi Indian Community,

Bay Mills Chippewa Indian Community and Keweenaw Bay Indian Community are continuing to support building similar partnerships.



*Jan Schultz, Botanist  
Eastern Region U.S. Forest Service*

July 13, 2011 representatives from area tribal communities met for a training event sponsored by The Cedar Tree Institute titled "Kinomaage: The Earth Shows us the Way." Ethnobotanist Scott Herron, a Native American specialist in the recovery of Anishanaabe sacred plants, joined us to give an overview of plant restoration efforts among Michigan's tribes. Jan Schultz, Chief Botanist for the Eastern Region of the United States Forest Service also served as special presenter along with Sue Rabbitaille, manager for the Hiawatha National Forest Greenhouse. We hope this is the first of series of such gatherings for mutual support and building shared vision among tribes.



### ***Special Thanks & Appreciation***

Special thanks to Rick Pietila, Cedar Tree volunteer staff member and Tom Biron (Sault Ste. Marie Band of Chippewa Indians), who continue to work with The Cedar Tree Institute's Director traveling to area American Indian communities, speaking with elders and tribal leaders, planning workshops and exploring new strategies regarding their community's efforts in restoration efforts.



Our appreciation to April Lindala and Northern Michigan University's Center for Native American Studies who, thanks to student interns Samantha Hasek and Alice Snively (Delaware/Lenape), completed this summer (2011) the editing and submission of 24 video-taped interviews by Greg Peterson with Anishinaabe elders and leaders regarding traditional cultural uses of medicinal plants. These interviews are designed to be part of the United States Forest Service Ethnobotany Web site.



### ***The Manitou Project II***

During 1997-2000, The Cedar Tree Institute worked with youth volunteers in planting 1,000 cedar trees across three counties in the Upper Peninsula. We called it The Manitou Project.

In 2012, The Cedar Tree Institute is planning a "capstone" effort in its work healing our ecosystem with a new tree planting initiative. We will be inviting friends to help us with will be what we hope will be an historic expression of restoration and healing in all 15 counties of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.



# Miigwech

("Thank you!")

— Ojibway



## **THE CEDAR TREE INSTITUTE**

*...founded in 1995, is a nonprofit agency that initiates projects and provides services in the areas of mental health, religion and the environment. The Institute works quietly, providing counseling services for clergy and priests, training for hospice workers and community meditation. The Institute provides one-third of its services at no cost. It supports projects that address issues of health, poverty, cross-cultural education and the environment.*



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