New Name – New Identity

1929
Arkansas Highway and Department of Lands

1977
Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

2017
Arkansas Department of Transportation
New Name – New Identity
HELPING THE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES:

Here are certain times during the spring and the summer months when travelers on Arkansas' highways have no doubt noticed bright and colorful areas of wildflowers blooming along the side of the road or in the grass median. These flowers may be Purple Coneflowers, Shovry Primrose or Black-eyed Susans. They and other varieties are all part of the wildflower mix that makes up the AHTD's wildflower program. The Department's program has helped beautify over 300,000 acres of highway roadides. The program has helped reduce long-term maintenance costs, enhanced roadside wildlife habitat, provided an attractive roadside environment and preserved native plant populations.

Though not a part of the AHTD's wildflower program, there is a plant that is making headlines across the nation and is now being planted by the Department in a concentrated effort. It's milkweed, and the reason it is being planted is...the Monarch Butterfly.

The Monarch Butterfly population across the globe is declining. Compared to years past, fewer butterflies are crossing the United States as they migrate back and forth to Mexico. In 2004, an estimated 350 million Monarchs completed the winter migration, while in 2013 only 33 million arrived. Further, between 2012 and 2013, there was a 43.7 percent decrease in the area occupied by the butterflies in their winter sanctuaries."

After extensive scientific and environmental research, the major blame for the decline has been put on the loss of habitat. Disappearance of milkweed, a plant vital to Monarchs survival, is among the lost habitat. Milkweed is the only plant that Monarchs will use to lay their eggs on. It is also the primary food source for Monarch caterpillars. Despite its necessity to the species, the plant decreased 21 percent in the United States between 1995 and 2013.

Though deforestation and harsh weather can be partly to blame, the major cause of the disappearance of milkweed in this country is farmers' large scale use of herbicides that destroy the plant.

And this is where the AHTD steps in with what is called the Milkweed Management Plan. The plan has been put in place as an independent project due to the growing concerns of the Monarch Butterfly and milkweed populations.

"We were approached by the Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks to see if we could include milkweeds in our wildflower seeding program," comments Kayti Eving, Environmental Analyst I.

"We haven't included milkweed seed because it is so expensive relative to other native wildflower seed and it has a low germination rate. Also, seed providers never have the amount the Department would need. One is more likely to get milkweed established by transplanting plugs, or one-year-old seedlings. And that is the route we are taking at the AHTD."

The goal of the AHTD's independent program is to plant a variety of native milkweeds across the State. There are 15 native species.

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IDriveArkansas Features

IDriveArkansas

Highway Closures

Saline County

- **Closure Reason:** Accident
- **Travel Direction:** Westbound
- **Lane(s) Closed:** Inside, Middle
- **Total Distance:** 0.03 Mile
- **Detour:** None
- **Date / Time:** November 10, 2017 at 4:39 PM CST

**Description**
Interstate 30 west bound around the 117 mile marker is closed due to a three car accident.

**Travel Impact**
No thru traffic.

**Construction**

- **Project Name:** Ark. River Bridge - I-40
- **Length:** 4.1 Miles
- **Location:** Mile Marker 6.4 - 10.67
- **Est. Completion:** Late 2017

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to remove and replace 3.190 miles of concrete pavement on I-440 in Pulaski County.

**Travel Impact**
Possible delays through construction zone.
IDriveArkansas Features
IDriveArkansas Features

Traffic Camera

West of the I-430 Interchange

INTERSTATE 30

REPORT A PROBLEM

TERMS OF USE

Camera View 6001
Pizza Spill
Arkansas Department of Transportation

- ARDOT.gov
- ConnectingArkansasProgram.com
- Vimeo.com/myARDOT
- IDriveArkansas.com
- Twitter.com @myARDOT
Questions?

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION