

# **Hardy Plant Society / Mid-Atlantic Group Grant - 2022 to the Franklin Gardeners Association**

The Franklin Gardeners Association in conjunction with the Penn State Master Gardeners of Venango County and Central Elementary School are honored and pleased to accept the Hardy Plant Society/Mid-Atlantic Group Grant for the implementation of a Butterfly Garden at Central Elementary School in Franklin, Pennsylvania. The Outdoor Learning Center presently has four raised beds, a rectangular bed and a circular bed for the Butterfly garden.

This is a multi-disciplinary project working with all three organizations and Sarah Kulling, teacher, Mr. Gary Canfora, Principal and students of Central Elementary School. The fourth grade class is learning about the lifecycle of the butterfly and painted individual wooden butterflies and stepping stones for the garden. Mr. Dave Rodgers, Penn State Master Gardener of Venango County made a "Little Library" to contain plant lists, books and activities for children. A small plaque listing the "Hardy Plant Society/Mid-Atlantic Group" was placed on the Library.

## **PLANT LISTING/DESCRIPTIONS**

**Franklin Gardeners Association in Franklin, PA received \$300** to purchase plants for their new Children's Learning Butterfly Garden.

**Rose Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)** is a showy pink blooming *Asclepias* species that is a food plant for Monarch butterfly caterpillars and a nectar source for adult butterflies. Also known as Swamp Milkweed, it grows best in moist or wet soils.

**Wichita Mountains form of *Monarda fistulosa*** is a wildflower gem blooming in mid-summer with a fabulous display of lavender-pink flowers that attract hummingbirds. Moderately xeric once established. Drought resistant/drought tolerant plant (xeric).

**Autumn Joy Stonecrop butterflies love the giant, color changing blooms.** Long lasting blooms can be cut or dried, thrives in heat and humidity. Deer resistant and easy to grow.

**Baby Joe' is a compact selection of the large growing Joe Pye weed.** In late summer the plant blooms with flat topped heads of small, mauve-purple flowers. The flowers are extremely attractive to butterflies and bees.

**'Purple Dome' is a New England type aster** that blooms in early fall with hundreds of deep lavender-purple flowers. This dwarf plant has a neat mounding habit and is a perfect choice to edge pathways and fill small spaces.

# Central Elementary students plant gardens



Contributed photo

**Central Elementary School fourth-grade students Randy Klinger, Faith Brandon, Bellanea Kachik, Sophia Buckely and Gabriel McCain work on planting a butterfly garden as part of the school's outdoor learning center. The plants were provided by the Hardy Plant Society/Mid-Atlantic Group Grant in conjunction with the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Venango County and the Franklin Gardeners Association. Fourth-grade teacher Sarah Kulling is spearheading the effort to educate children on the lifecycle of caterpillars and butterflies.**