

MOTHER NATURE

Has Given the CITY of

PEEKSKILL a GIFT

Dear Jack, thanks for giving me the tour of the Peekskill Riverfront Walkway. Mother nature has given the City of Peekskill a gift: Groups of naturally growing milkweed plants all along the walkway.

Why is this so important? According to Monarch Watch, and other organizations, all created to save the Monarch Butterfly, their own recent reports, and substantiated by other organizations, the Monarch Butterfly population nationwide is down 90% from 20 years ago. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is now studying the possibility of giving the "Monarch" protection to keep it from going the way of the passenger pigeon and other birds and insects.

The number one reason for the sad downward trend in numbers of Monarchs migrating from north to south each year, is the loss of the Milkweed plant. Without Milkweed the Monarchs cannot survive.

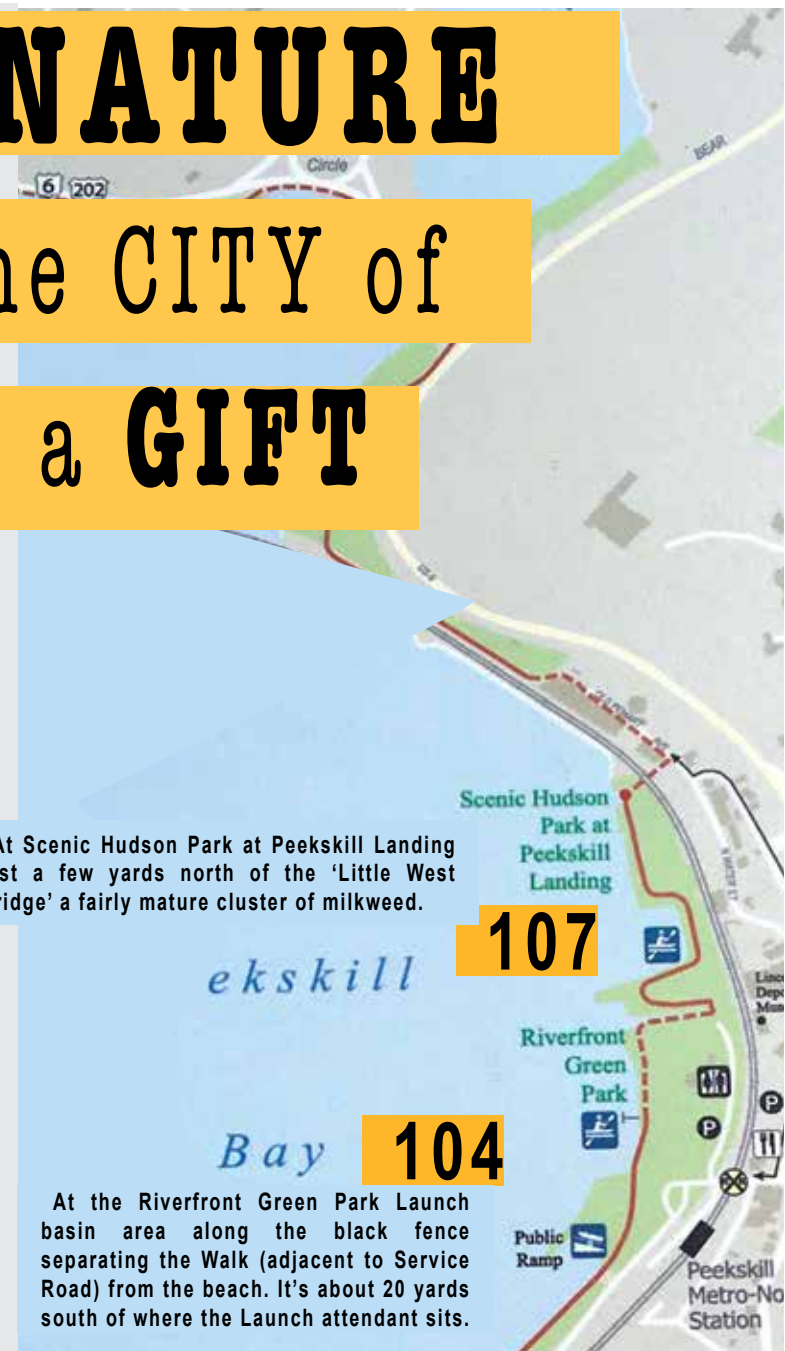
Peekskill is but a fly speck in the nationwide loss of the Milkweed plant yet

At Scenic Hudson Park at Peekskill Landing just a few yards north of the 'Little West Bridge' a fairly mature cluster of milkweed.

107

At the Riverfront Green Park Launch basin area along the black fence separating the Walk (adjacent to Service Road) from the beach. It's about 20 yards south of where the Launch attendant sits.

104



truly symbolic of what is occurring. Through misunderstanding, lack of knowledge, or the constant drum beat of "clean" landscaping, Milkweed is being eradicated everywhere and was in the Peekskill Walkway until you came along.

The fact that you have enthusiastically given your time, effort and skills to saving the few naturally growing examples of Milkweed at Peekskill Riverfront Walkway is truly amazing.

I was amazed at the magnificent development of the naturally growing Milkweed at the northern end of the Riverfront Green parking lot, next to the "little West Bridge" location 106 and 107 at Scenic Hudson Park on your personal map of the area.

I was terribly disappointed to see the destruction of the plants you identified at #105. Gone, wiped out by the weed whackers. It was obvious it was being marked and protected by the Pollinated Pathways stakes, didn't matter.

These three locations at Peekskill Riverfront Walkway - one WIPED OUT, the other FLOURISHING, are symptomatic of the entire situation at Peekskill Riverfront Walkway.

This may be a fly speck in the nationwide loss of Milkweed plants but certainly an obvious example for everyone who cares about the loss of the Monarch Butterfly.

The example you have set should be copied by everyone!

John H. Vargo, Author, Publisher, Owner Beacon Publishing, DBA Boating On The Hudson & Beyond Magazine and Pollinated Pathway Corporation, dedicated to saving the Milkweed Plant wherever it may be found..

