

# Milkweed for Monarchs

by John H. Vargo, Publisher

It's hard to believe that this wonderful group of volunteers cleaned up an invasive overgrown tangle of weeds and vines choking the robust cluster of wild milkweed, a dense area of approximately 250 square feet. At the last minute, Jack Cook and I found out that an opportunity was about to present itself that we could not afford to pass up. We didn't know that there was going to be a, "volunteer only", clean-up day on the Saturday morning of April 17.

With that in mind and on only 24 hour notice we put out the call to individuals, explained that situation and sure enough the volunteers on the accompanying photo all showed up promptly at 9 am on the following day ... Saturday morning.

The job was to tear out the roots and if possible the extensive vines and brush that were preventing the milkweed plants already established from expanding.

Just as we were about to get started, the Superintendent of the Peekskill Parks Department, Mrs. Cathy Montaldo, arrived and suggested that we move the waste out to the front of the park near the road. This is exactly what we did.

With the enthusiastic support that young and old alike exhibited this morning; one group pulled and cut out the tangled brush, another group ran it out to the road for pick-up by the Public Works Department. The "waste" pile was quite extensive.



Ivey Levy's children came to lend a hand; Emmanuelle, (foreground) and Paul (far right), Dan Grossman (in white jacket), is in the background, John Fuchek, (bending over) and Lou Spanier, (back to camera).

The entire operation that probably would have taken a solid day or even longer to complete was done in one hour by these volunteers. It is truly amazing what self-determination and volunteerism can accomplish when it comes together to serve a common civic interest.

**Thanks to all who participated!**



left to right, Mrs. Susanne Johnson, Dan Grossman, Jason Akhbari, Paul Levy, Conner Leibowitz, Emmanuelle Levy, Grace Koch.