



Pollination Station At The Pumpkin Festival

By BFG Members Penny and Abigail Clagg

The Win Top 2 Farm Pollination Station enjoyed setting up at the West Virginia Pumpkin Festival, October 3-6, in Milton, West Virginia. The 4 days were spent educating people about the [importance of pollinators](#), including school days on Thursday and Friday, where numerous schools were in attendance. This time was used to advocate for all pollinators, not just commonly known butterflies and honey bees. Bats, native bees, birds, hummingbirds, moths, beetles, and many lesser-known pollinators were represented, as well. A section titled 'Bees of the Seas', which was about underwater pollination, and a section about prehistoric pollinators were also included.



Some of the Pollination Station highlights were a bee skep replica, different types of native bee houses, a butterfly house, multiple butterfly feeders, multiple types of bird feeders, and a "batman lunch box" showing what bats pollinate and eat. We also displayed many plastic lifecycles, as well as beetles, bats, bees, butterflies, and caterpillars in acrylic. The bat fossil is our personal favorite.

Many information sheets were handed out during the festival, including the Bee Friendly Gardening rack card. (Visit [this link](#) to obtain some for your own outreach efforts and help spread the word about BFG!) These info sheets taught people about pollinator gardening, different pollinators, and other important information. Many pollinator-related crafts were made in the kids' craft section, such as clothespin butterflies. Some pollinator themed games were also played.

This local event was a prime time to educate more people about the importance of pollination to our survival. We strive to become local ambassadors in the promotion of and advocacy for our precious pollinators. We look forward to our next engagement and to next year at the Pumpkin Festival and beyond. For additional information on our farm, you can email: Wintop2farmpollinationstation@outlook.com or find us on Facebook and Instagram.

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