

# What's Buzzing at Stuart Recreation Area?

## Monongahela National Forest Pollinator Garden

### Why "Bee" Concerned about Pollination?

Native Plants and Pollinators go hand-in-hand. West Virginia butterflies, moths, bees, hummingbirds and other insects transfer pollen between plants, assisting plants with reproduction.



- Pollinators obtain food in the form of energy-rich nectar and/or protein-rich pollen from the flowers they visit. In return, the pollinated flowers are able to develop and produce seed.

- This flower garden supports pollinator species essential to native flowering plants in our state.
- Pollinators are needed for the reproduction of **90%** of all flowering plants and for the production of 1/3 of human food crops.



- Some pollinators cannot survive without the presence of a specific plant or plant group, such as Monarch butterflies and Milkweeds. And, similarly, some plants require specific pollinators.
- Pollinators are in decline due to increased pesticide use, decreases in natural habitats, and increases in non-native invasive plants.

### Gardening and Landscaping with Native Plants

- Native plants provide year-round benefits and are an environmentally friendly choice for landscaping. They do not require fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides or watering and are adapted to our climate.
- Non-natives and cultivars often do not provide nectar for pollinators, and in general, support far fewer native insects and birds than native plants. They can also escape gardens and devastate local forests and landscapes.



Help protect the "Birds and Bees" - Use locally native plants in your landscape!

