

HOW TO ATTRACT POLLINATORS

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Hardware Stores AIM FOR THE FUTURE

Family-run businesses do what is needed to succeed for generations to come.

By Anita B. Stone

The hardwood floors always seemed oil-stained, and the change-eating vending machine housed ancient candy bars, but the local hardware store was a place of distinction in every small town in America. Kids became grownups among other grownups, listening to older gentlemen complain about the lack of rain and talk about the most recent watershed meeting. Most folks were only there after a few ounces of 2-stroke engine oil or something similar, but going down to the hardware store was an escape for fathers and mothers and neighborly country folk with similar interests – and the kids always relished tagging along. And every time someone's change got lost in those stale candy machines, it was no big deal, the owner and only person who worked there would flip another coin from his register without a second thought. Trips to those local hardware stores were, and still are today, oftentimes more about community than the hardware.