

# Pollinator Lecture

## Held at Maritime Museum

On Saturday, September 29, the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum hosted a lecture on the Pollinator Crisis. Our speaker, Devra Kitterman, is an avid Baltimore City beekeeper who speaks about native pollinators, honeybees and planting for pollinators. She is the Pollinator Program Coordinator for the [Maryland Agricultural Resource Council](#) at The Baltimore County Agricultural Center in Cockeysville, Md.

A retired owner of a landscape, greenhouse, and horticultural services company for 27 years, she uses this background and experience to educate the public about the current status of bees and other native pollinators, and how to utilize plants that best feed and protect them, which in turn, protects food production in the U.S.



In her lecture Devra was able to impart a lot of knowledge and advice on what we should do to help these creatures who are essential to our food system. Devra notes that in “Maryland the annual honeybee colony loss has been 60+% for the last few years” and this year may be higher. Loss of habitat and food sources is the number one problem. “Honeybees may disappear in North America in the next 10-20 years.” While most of our food crops depend on pollinators, the use of neonicotinoids or other agricultural chemicals is adding to the pollinators problems. Her advice was for homeowners to quit treating their lawns with chemicals harmful to insects and landscape with plants that provide food sources for pollinators and water sources, too. Devra provided a list of plants that are most valuable to pollinators. We should also challenge government practices of mass spraying for mosquitoes as it is toxic to all insects.